

Dear Members and Parents,

Welcome to the Elkhart County 4-H Saddle Club! Whether you're a first- or second-year member, we encourage you to join us for our fantastic four-day camp from **June 15th-18th**.

We are looking forward to our 49th year of horse camp. The goals of camp are to build long-lasting meaningful relationships with other 4Hers and leaders, prepare our young members for success during fair, and improve equine knowledge and horsemanship.

Our dedicated team of volunteers, which includes adult leaders and experienced camp wranglers, will guide you through the camp with a focus on "learning by doing." It's also a great time to familiarize yourself with the fairgrounds and our club's expectations during fair.

Safety First: Safety is our top priority! Campers must wear boots with an adequate heel while working with their horse or pony. Helmets are required during riding sessions, and each participant must have a signed **Liability Form** on file to participate.

Camp Application Process:

- All Horse Camp applications will be completed **online** starting **March 1st**. Please submit your application by **May 15th**. Scan this code to apply or find it on the website at elkhartcounty4hsaddleclub.com under the teams/horsecamp tab.



Camp cost: \$50

Parent Volunteers Needed:

We are seeking parent volunteers to help with camp and stay onsite. If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact the Camp Directors to receive information and start the required paperwork. **Bekah McKerchie (231) 613-0105**

What to Expect from camp:

- Two riding sessions daily!
- Various demonstrations and fun games.
- Campers rise at **6:30 AM** to feed horses and clean stalls and lights out will be **10:00 PM**.

Arrival and Departure:

- **Sunday, June 15th:**
 - **3:00 PM:** Dorms will be open for moving campers in: Girls in the **Sheep and Swine Building** and boys in the **Home and Family Arts Building**.
 - **4:00 PM:** Pull horse trailer up to East end of the main arena to unload horse and all horse supplies. At this time the camper is to lead the horse into the main arena to be checked-in while camp wranglers and parents take tack and horse supplies to the barn tack room. Once checked in, horses are to be taken to the rail and tied.
 - **At this time:** Parents and campers must report to the show booth to get name tags, camp shirt and finish any forms that have not yet been completed. After this, horses may then be groomed and saddled.
 - **5:00 PM:** Bridle horses but **DO NOT MOUNT**. Lead horses to the main arena for evaluations. Camper and horse will have a brief safety check and then camper will be asked to mount their horse and then asked to follow instructions as they are evaluated. After evaluation, campers will be given stall assignments and should tie and untack horse at the rail and bed their stall. When stall is ready, move horse into stall.
 - **6:00 PM:** General meeting for all campers and parents after which parents will be dismissed.

- **Wednesday, June 18th:**
 - **12:30 PM:** Parents should arrive and park.
 - **1:00-3:00:** Abbreviated horse show. Each camper will show in 1 or 2 classes to demonstrate what they have learned while at camp. When their classes are finished they are to tie at the rail and untack then put their horse back in their stall and come watch the remainder of the show.
 - **3:00-4:00:** Awards and closing meeting
 - **Following Closing Meeting:** Horses will be taken to rail or trailer, stalls will need to be completely cleaned out and **check by a leader**. All tack and supplies will be loaded to go home.

Campers must be check out of camp prior to leaving the fairgrounds!

Important Camp Notes:

- **Horse Evaluation:** All campers must be able to safely mount and ride their horse for the evaluation. If a camper cannot do so due to horse behavior or lameness, they may still stay at camp, but parents will need to take their animal home.
- **Walk-Trot:** First and second-year members can participate in Walk-Trot classes at fair, however, by the third year, members must transition to junior classes. If you feel your child is ready for cantering, we can evaluate them at camp.
- **Adult Volunteers and Camp Wranglers** are not allowed to ride campers' horses at any point during camp. We are not providing horse training, we are equipping campers to care for and handle their own horses.
- **Camp Checkout:** We will not accommodate early checkouts. Camp concludes with the **end-of-camp show** from **1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** and **awards** from **3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**. Please respect the scheduled times. It is important for campers to experience the cleaning up and checking out process as it will be for fair.

We can't wait to see you at Horse Camp and look forward to working with you all!

Sincerely,

Shane and Bekah McKerchie
Elkhart County 4-H Horse Camp Directors

For questions, contact **Bekah McKerchie** at (231) 613-0105

Camp Supply List:

Campers:

- Clothing for 3 days including long pants for riding and clothes for non-riding times
- PJs
- Hat or cap (for sun protection)
- Boots (with heel for riding)
- Helmet (mandatory!)
- Bug repellent, soap, shampoo, toiletries
- Cot or air mattress (unless you're okay with sleeping on a concrete floor)
- Sleeping bag, pillow, and towels

Optional Items:

- Snacks and drinks (plastic or metal containers only-no glass!)
- Cooler
- Cards/board games (No electronics!)
- Book to read/journal for midday "quiet time"
- Fans (bring a power strip as outlets are limited!)

Horse Supplies:

- Halter
- Lead rope
- Saddle with girth
- Saddle pad
- Bridle with reins
- Grooming brushes
- Large water bucket and small bucket to fill water with
- Fly spray
- Apple picker/pitchfork
- Grain, hay, and other necessary horse feed/supplies (feed pan, hay bag, etc.)
- Optional: Leg wraps, liniment or salve, wheel barrow

Label all your equipment!