Equestrian Summer Camps

Alfred University Equestrian Camps
Alfred, New York

Camps for 2015 are scheduled for June 29-July 2 & July 12-17. For more information, visit: alfred.edu

Alfred University Equestrian Camps offer a wonderful opportunity for all levels of riders to define and achieve their personal riding goals during an exciting, fun-filled week. Campers can bring their own horses or use the University’s lesson horses, as they ride and learn horse management. With an emphasis on having fun and enjoying AU’s beautiful natural surroundings, campers are guaranteed to have an informative and enjoyable week.

All camps are held at AU’s Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center, which includes classrooms, viewing areas, a 200 x 80-foot indoor arena, 50 stalls, and two outdoor arenas: 200 x 100 and 80 x 100.

Choosing a summer camp to attend can be a daunting experience. Parents want to know their children are going to be safe and children want to know they will have fun. Below is a list of camps from around the country that cater to all types of equestrians, from beginner to advanced, and may accommodate your child’s needs.
Blue Willow Farm Summer Camp is a unique opportunity for children and young adults ages six to 16 to learn about horses and have fun. Throughout the week, campers of all skill levels will hone their skills in the English Saddle Seat discipline as they learn about various aspects of horse care and stable management including grooming, feeding, and tack maintenance. Additionally, lessons in equine anatomy as well as breed and color recognition are taught to make for a well-rounded week. Campers are taught about sportsmanship and showmanship, and enjoy equine-related arts, crafts, and games.

A premier, all-girls sleep away camp, the Bryn Mawr Horseback Riding Camp offers one 10-day session, or two- or three-week sessions that can be combined for a total of five weeks for girls ages 10 to 15. Entry-level to advanced riders receive quality instruction in hunt seat equitation and have the opportunity to enhance their skills in the hunter, jumper, and dressage rings, while still participating in traditional summer camp activities like swimming, adventure, and arts and crafts.

Tucked away among the pastoral beauty of rustic Northeastern Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr Horseback Riding Camp is located just 100 miles from New York City, 135 miles from Philadelphia, and 250 miles from the Washington, D.C. metro area.

The International Riding Camp was established in 1978 for girls ages seven to 17, who love horses and riding. Located 90 miles northwest of New York City, the riding camp provides an environment in which horse lovers can experience various riding disciplines: hunt seat equitation, cross-country jumping, and polo. It offers a well-rounded equestrian camp program along with water skiing, tennis, swimming, and arts and crafts. The riding camp offers three hours of riding lessons per day, six days per week. For some campers, three hours per day is not enough riding so additional riding time is offered for up to six hours per day.

As part of its traditional summer camp, Rockbrook provides an extensive equestrian program combining qualified staff, experienced horses, and excellent facilities. Campers will enjoy an atmosphere where they can advance their riding skills, expand their horsemanship knowledge, and enjoy riding with friends. Designed to be fun and informative for riders with any level of experience, the Rockbrook riding program emphasizes safety, fun, and skill advancement.

Rockbrook teaches English riding lessons in the American system of forward riding, along with dressage skills and jumping for advanced riders. A camper will spend two one-hour periods at the barn: one in a mounted lesson tailored to her riding ability, and the other working with the horses. The camp collaborates closely with the Equestrian Program at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, sharing both horses and instructors.

The Rockbrook Camp, accredited by the American Camp Association, is located on 214 acres in the mountains of North Carolina, and hosts girls ages six through 16 in two-, three-, and four-week sessions.
Texas A&M Equestrian Camps strive to give campers a feel for what it is like to be a member of the school’s Equestrian Team. They offer two different levels of camp, the Elite Option for high school-aged riders who are interested in riding in college, and a more introductory-level camp for 12- to 18-year-olds. These camps still give campers a feel for the team, but also work on basics related to catch riding.

Texas A&M offers three different disciplines to choose from: hunter seat camps, which cover both equitation on the flat and equitation over fences, western horsemanship, and reining. The Team’s coaches are the main instructors, while current team members also play a big role. The camps take place at the home of Aggie Equestrian, The Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM ’56 Equine Complex.

Briarwood Farm has been part of the Briarwood Farm business for over 30 years and has had an amazing impact on many children. The day camp runs Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, and includes two riding lessons each day. Quality instruction coupled with hands-on time with the horses enables riders to progress with their horsemanship skills incredibly quickly. The camp is “all horses, all day,” and a very interactive experience which inspires youngsters to take their love of horses and turn it into a passion.

The University of Findlay offers two, one-week sessions of summer eventing camp. A skill-based instructional camp for the serious equestrian, it provides two riding sessions per day: one dressage and one jumping (show jumping or cross-country). There is a cross-country course and trails on the property for conditioning and schooling sessions. Lectures are part of the daily schedule, and topics include how to ride a dressage test successfully, course walking, designing a show jumping course, and stable management.

Students are responsible for the complete care of the horses they are assigned. There is an option to bring your own horse. Parents are encouraged to attend a jumping demonstration on the last day.

Maggie’s Take:

“Saying that Rockbrook Camp is a place where you learn to grow is an understatement. I have had some of the best friendships possible and the bonds I have created over the years are unbeatable. The relationships you create at camp are real, due to the fact that my friends and I are not engulfed by technology and the distractions in the everyday world. It is the perfect escape from reality where friendships are simple and integral. The activities are also incredible. I rode horses for many years at camp, and not only do campers create connections with the people around them, but with the animals at the camp barn. Everyday campers walk down to the barn and ride their horse, and after the session at camp, they form an immense bond with the amazing animals as well! Rockbrook is an incredible place and the friendships I have created with the people and animals brought me back year after year!”

Maggie Greer, 10-year camper at Rockbrook Summer Horseback Riding Camp for Girls
Kai’s Take:

“I thought the Texas A&M Equestrian college equestrian prep camp offered a great insight into what riding in college would be all about. Being a member of the team now, I can say that the coaches and counselors really did an accurate job of explaining the ins and outs of college riding, and giving great insight to what it would take to ride for the university. The camp also gave me the chance to ride in front of the coach, and having the opportunity to do so helped lead to my recruitment onto the team.”

Kai DeVoglaer, freshman Equestrian Team member at Texas A&M University

Sophia’s Take:

“I’ve been progressing a lot with my horse, Prince, and I owe Findlay a big thank-you for that. I have taken a lot away from the week at the eventing camp!”

Sophia Duffy, former University of Findlay Eventing Summer Camp attendee

1] Texas A&M Equestrian Camps
2] Rockbrook Summer Horseback Riding Camp for Girls
3] University of Findlay Eventing Summer Camp
4] Blue Willow Farm Summer Camp