SAULT STE. MARIE HORSE & PONY CLUB

2026-2027 Discovery to Ride Program

POLICIES

For Discovery to Ride participants and parents/guardians

These policies outline the expectations for participation in the Sault Ste. Marie Horse & Pony Club (SSMHPC) Discovery to Ride Program and help ensure a safe, enjoyable, and positive experience for riders, families, volunteers, and horses.

1. Registration

Registration is considered complete once all of the following have been received:

- Completed Discovery to Ride Registration Form.
- Signed Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement **before participating in any Club activities**.
- Full program payment.

Discovery to Ride is a six (6) lesson introductory riding program. Participation does **not** include an SSMHPC Annual Membership.

2. Program Information

The Discovery to Ride Program includes:

- Six (6) riding lessons.
- Private or semi-private instruction.
- Use of a suitable Club horse or pony.
- Use of tack and grooming equipment.
- Instruction from experienced coaches.
- An introduction to horse care, grooming, tacking up, riding skills, and horsemanship.

Lesson length and format may vary depending on rider experience, horse welfare, weather conditions, and daily program requirements.

3. Attendance

Participants should arrive approximately **30 minutes before** their scheduled lesson unless otherwise communicated by the Lesson Coordinator.

This allows time to:

- Meet your instructor.
- Meet your horse.
- Groom and tack up.
- Ask questions before the lesson begins.

Please notify the Lesson Coordinator by text or phone at **705-987-5551** as soon as possible if you are unable to attend.

4. Missed Lessons, Weather & Cancellations

IMPORTANT - NO REFUNDS OR MAKE-UP LESSONS

Lessons missed by a rider for ANY REASON are NOT eligible for refunds, credits or make-up lessons.

Lessons will continue in most weather conditions. During periods of extreme heat, extreme cold, poor air quality, unsafe footing, or other unsuitable riding conditions, lessons may be modified to include horsemanship, horse care, stable management, or other educational activities.

If the Club cancels a lesson due to severe weather or unforeseen circumstances, every reasonable effort will be made to schedule a make-up lesson.

5. Rider Attire & Safety

Riders are **required** to wear or bring the following for lessons:

- A properly fitted ASTM/SEI-approved riding helmet whenever mounted. SSMHPC does have helmets available for use, but we encourage regular lesson students to purchase their own helmet.
- Boots with a defined heel while riding. Preferably proper boots made for horseback riding.
- Long pants – preferably riding breeches and weather-appropriate riding attire.
- Open-toed footwear is not permitted in the barn or around horses.
- Weather-appropriate clothing.
- Long hair tied back.
- Any required medications (such as inhalers or EpiPens).

Participants, parents/guardians, and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner while on Club property and follow all directions provided by instructors, volunteers, and Club representatives.

6. Horse Assignments

Horse assignments are made by the instructor based on rider ability, lesson objectives, horse suitability, workload, and horse welfare.

Participants may not request or change horses without instructor approval.

7. Communication

Program updates, cancellations and important notices may be communicated by email, telephone – text/call, the Club website, or official Facebook page.

Participants and parent/guardians are responsible for ensuring their contact information remains current and for reviewing program communications.

8. Program Changes

SSMHPC reserves the right to make reasonable changes to lesson schedules, instructors, horse assignments, group placements or program operations when necessary for rider safety, horse welfare, facility conditions or effective program delivery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By participating in the SSMHPC Discovery to Ride program, participants and parents/guardians acknowledge they:

- Have read and understood these Discovery to Ride Program Policies.
- Agree to comply with these Policies, the Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement, and all directions provided by instructors and Club representatives.
- Understand that equestrian activities involve inherent risks and agree to follow all safety directions.
- Understand that rider-missed lessons are **not eligible for refunds, credits, or make-up lessons.**

Related Documents

These Policies should be read together with the following SSMHPC documents:

- 2026-2027 Discovery to Ride Registration Form.
- 2026-2027 Discovery to Ride Welcome Guide.
- SSMHPC Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Questions or Concerns

Email: lessons@ssmhpc.com
Call/Text: 705-987-5551
Address: 647 Garden River Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON