



Dear Caregivers, Parents and/or Participants,

Welcome to Grace Under the Oaks! We look forward to your participation in our program and sharing our wonderful horses with you. Grace Under the Oaks (GUTO) provides adaptive riding lessons and Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) to youth and adults experiencing a variety of challenges, many of whom will find their participation in these activities and the connections made with our horses to be very therapeutic. Please carefully read all of the information in this application and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We are currently accepting applications for our program. GUTO offers lessons once a week on a rotational "A and B week" basis on Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. We have limited riding times and spots fill up fast so get your paperwork in quickly!

One of our goals is to keep our program affordable to all our participants and families. In order to make this possible, we will have several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. We also constantly look for grants, donations, and corporate sponsorships for our program and events. Please consider helping with these opportunities in an effort to keep our rates affordable for all.

We have high hopes for the road ahead! Please complete this application and return it to us as soon as possible to help ensure your/your participant's spot in our program. Once we receive your application, an evaluation appointment will be scheduled. Evaluations last approximately 30 minutes and cost \$30.

**\*\* Please note that this program is located at a private residence and any visits to the property are by appointment only\*\***

Applications can be mailed to: 2831 State Road 13, Saint Johns, FL 32259 or scanned and emailed to [ride@graceundertheoaks.org](mailto:ride@graceundertheoaks.org). We look forward to serving you soon!

Thank you,

*Jennifer Lang*

Executive Director  
PATH Intl. Certified Instructor  
[ride@graceundertheoaks.org](mailto:ride@graceundertheoaks.org)  
904-237-5879

Location Address: 2831-2 State Road 13, Saint Johns, FL 32259

## Rider Policies

1. Riders must follow posted Barn/Property rules and safety guidelines at all times.
2. Riders must wear close-toed shoes (boots preferred). Long pants are recommended on rider lesson days. Please dress yourself / your child appropriately to the weather.
3. Riders will be required to wear appropriately fitting riding helmets provided by the center or personal helmets that meet safety requirements and are approved by our Instructors.
4. Riders may not participate in riding without a completed physical form every two years. Riders with Down Syndrome must complete a form yearly.
5. GUTO has maximum weight limits of 200 lbs for independent riders and 170 for supported riders. Ground lessons and other equine assisted activities are available for participants who do not meet these limits. Rider weights will be updated at least twice a year. **\*\*Please refer to the 2022 "Rider Weight Policy Addendum" at the end of this packet for further information.**
6. Lessons will continue in the case of rain. However, in the case of severe weather such as extreme heat, thunderstorms, hurricane or very windy conditions, lessons are to be cancelled at the discretion of Grace Under the Oaks. GUTO will also cancel lessons if the temperature high for the day is below 40 degrees. These lessons will not be made up and clients will not be charged if GUTO chooses to cancel for safety needs.
7. All lesson dates are provided at the start of each semester. If you cannot attend a lesson, a missed lesson fee of \$30 will be charged. Riders must give a minimum of 24 hours notice if they need to cancel a lesson. More time is better so we can alert the volunteers.
8. If a rider is 15 minutes late, the rider's horse will be untacked and they will be able to participate in non-mounted activities for the remainder of their assigned lesson time.
9. If a student does **not call** and does **not show up for a lesson, a NO CALL/NO SHOW FEE of THE FULL LESSON RATE** will be *charged* to the student for that day's lesson. After two (2) No Call/No Shows, you are at risk of being dropped from your appointment time (at the discretion of the executive director) and may have to re-register. If you are on any form of scholarship, you will have to reapply.
10. Parents must remain with any siblings at all times and should not allow them to wander unattended. They must watch from the designated gazebo or remain in their car without interfering with the lesson
11. If, at any point in the participant's enrollment at GUTO, the instructor believes that adaptive riding is no longer applicable to the participant, the instructor has the right to discharge them. The following are some of the factors that may lead to being discharged:
  - \* Participant no longer meets the weight limit.
  - \* The participant's doctor advises against riding
  - \* If the instructor believes the safety of the participant, horse, or volunteers is at risk.
  - \* Participant no longer benefits from adaptive riding lessons and/or has developed skills to participate in general lessons in the community

Please sign below saying that you have read the above Policies and understand them.

**\*\* The following page is an additional copy that you may keep for your reference. \*\***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **\*\* PARTICIPANT COPY\*\***

### **Rider Policies**

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2. Riders must wear close-toed shoes (boots preferred). Long pants are recommended on rider lesson days. Please dress yourself / your child appropriately to the weather.
3. Riders will be required to wear appropriately fitting riding helmets provided by the center or personal helmets that meet safety requirements and are approved by our Instructors.
4. Riders may not participate in riding without a completed physical form every two years. Riders with Down Syndrome must complete a form yearly.
5. GUTO has maximum weight limits of 200 lbs for independent riders and 170 for supported riders. Ground lessons and other equine assisted activities are available for participants who do not meet these limits. Rider weights will be updated at least twice a year. **\*\*Please refer to the 2022 "Rider Weight Policy Addendum" at the end of this packet for further information.**
6. Lessons will continue in the case of rain. However, in the case of severe weather such as extreme heat, thunderstorms, hurricane or very windy conditions, lessons are to be cancelled at the discretion of Grace Under the Oaks. GUTO will also cancel lessons if the temperature high for the day is below 40 degrees. These lessons will not be made up and clients will not be charged if GUTO chooses to cancel for safety needs.
7. All lesson dates are provided at the start of each semester. If you cannot attend a lesson, a missed lesson fee of \$30 will be charged. Riders must give a minimum of 24 hours notice if they need to cancel a lesson. More time is better so we can alert the volunteers.
8. If a rider is 15 minutes late, the rider's horse will be untacked and they will be able to participate in non-mounted activities for the remainder of their assigned lesson time.
9. If a student does **not call** and does **not show up for a lesson, a NO CALL/NO SHOW FEE of THE FULL LESSON RATE** will be *charged* to the student for that day's lesson. After two (2) No Call/No Shows, you are at risk of being dropped from your appointment time (at the discretion of the executive director) and may have to re-register. If you are on any form scholarship, you will have to reapply.
10. Parents must remain with any siblings at all times and should not allow them to wander unattended. They must watch from the designated gazebo or remain in their car without interfering with the lesson
11. If, at any point in the participant's enrollment at GUTO, the instructor believes that adaptive riding is no longer applicable to the participant, the instructor has the right to discharge them. The following are some of the factors that may lead to being discharged:

- \* Participant no longer meets the weight limit.
- \* The participant's doctor advises against riding
- \* If the instructor believes the safety of the participant, horse, or volunteers is at risk.
- \* Participant no longer benefits from adaptive riding lessons and/or has developed skills to participate in general lessons in the community

## Participant Registration (PLEASE PRINT)

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Age: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary number: \_\_\_\_\_ (is texting ok for notifications? YES NO )

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For Minors:

Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Resides with: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Riders must be at least four years of age. \*\*A rider's maximum weight may not exceed 200 lbs for independent riders and 170 for supported riders requiring side walkers. These limitations assure the wellness and optimum soundness of GUTO horses, and provides a safe environment for staff, volunteers, and participants. Participants over the maximum weight are encouraged to participate in un-mounted activities such as groundwork and/or Equine Assisted Activities.*

How did you hear about Grace Under the Oaks? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the participant have any prior experience with horses? If so, Please explain (Experience is not required):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe Physical Function (e.g., gross and fine motor skills, limitations)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe Psycho-social Function (e.g., work/school including grade completed, leisure interests, relationships-family structure, support systems, companion animals, fears/concerns, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your goals for participation in this program (i.e. why are you applying? / What do you want to work towards?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Authorization of Emergency Medical Treatment

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during the process of receiving services, or while being on the property of the agency, I authorize Grace Under the Oaks Inc. to secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed and release client records upon request to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Medical Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy#: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent Plan:** Signing this gives consent to an x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "lifesaving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person below is unable to be reached.

Consent Signature (Client / Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Consent Plan:** I do not give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the case of illness or injury during the process of receiving services, or while being on the property of the agency. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Consent Signature (Client / Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Grace Under the Oaks Inc. of any and all photographs as well as any and all audio-visual materials taken of me and/or my child for promotional material including social media platforms, educational activities, exhibitions or any other use for the benefit of this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I **DO NOT** consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Grace Under the Oaks Inc. of any and all photographs as well as any and all audio-visual materials taken of me and/or my child for promotional material including social media platforms, educational activities, exhibitions or any other use for the benefit of this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Participant Consent for Release of Information

I \_\_\_\_\_, authorize Grace Under the Oaks Inc. to release the following information about the participant \_\_\_\_\_:

I will allow the following information to be released (check all that apply):

Name

Contact Information

Age/Basic description

Medical History (only to be released to designated Medical facility)

Testimonials/Riders' progress made through Therapeutic Riding)

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

This information may be released to (check all that apply):

Newspaper/Magazine or other Publication to Promote Grace Under the Oaks

Newsletter to GUTO contacts

Website/Social Media

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions:

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By signing this form, I am agreeing to allow the information described to be released regarding the participant to the designated parties.

Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Parent or Guardian if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Grace Under the Oaks Billing Policies

GUTO is committed to providing quality adaptive riding lessons and equine assisted activities at an affordable rate. The majority of our incurred expenses are financed through private donations, grants and fundraisers. It costs the program approximately \$200 to provide a single lesson for our students and we pride ourselves on our ability to offer these services at reduced rates.

**Payment:** Payments can be made via check, cash or Venmo. GUTO does not bill Insurance or Medicaid.

**Evaluations:** Evaluations are performed by one of the GUTO PATH Int. certified instructors for all new participants desiring to enter the program. Evaluation fees for new participants are \$30.

**Lesson Rates:** Adaptive riding lessons and equine assisted activities are billed at a rate of \$65 per session. Full payment is required prior to the start of the riding lesson unless other arrangements have been made. Financial support is available through scholarships based on financial need and household/rider need. If you would like to see if you qualify for reduced rate pricing, please complete the form below.

I agree to the billing policies set forth by Grace Under the Oaks.

Participant/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Financial Support / Scholarship Application\*\***

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible party for payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family's Estimated Annual Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dependents in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive government assistance? YES NO What type? \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that all of the information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

*\*\* If the Financial support / Scholarship application was completed on this page, GUTO will review the Information to determine eligibility and inform you of your designated rate prior to your first scheduled visit. Please note that any applicants receiving outside scholarships (Gardiner / Step Up for Students etc.) are not eligible for GUTO financial support. Aid is awarded based on available funds and the information listed above.*

**To be completed by GUTO:**

**Income Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ **+ Dependent Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ **+ GA Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ **= Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Based on the information provided above, this participant qualifies for the following rate:   \$65   \$50   \$30**

**Rate has been reviewed and confirmed by the following parties (Please initial):**

**Ex. Director:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Client/Responsible party:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*

## Grace Under the Oaks Inc.

### LIABILITY RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned have read and understand, and freely and voluntarily enter into this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement with Grace Under the Oaks Inc. I understand that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is a waiver of any and all liability. I understand the potential dangers that I and/or the minor that I am the parent/ legal guardian of could incur while interacting with horses. Understanding those risks I hereby release Grace Under the Oaks Inc., the property owners, Board of Directors, volunteers, Instructors, contractors and anyone else directly or indirectly connected with Grace Under the Oaks Inc. from any liability whatsoever in the event of death, injury or damage of any nature to me or anyone else caused by or incidental to my electing to interact with the horse owned, leased or utilized by Grace Under the Oaks or Under the Oaks Farm. I understand, recognize and warrant that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is being voluntarily and intentionally signed and agreed to, and that in signing this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement I know and understand that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement may further limit the liability of equine professionals to include any activity, whatsoever, involving an equine, including death, personal injury and/or damage to property. I further voluntarily agree and warrant to Release and Hold Harmless this (these) equine professional(s) from any liability whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any incident caused by or related to said equine professional's (s') negligence, relating to injuries known, unknown, or otherwise not herein disclosed; including, but not limited to, injuries, death or property damage from: interacting with and feeding the horse during activities lead by Instructors/Professionals with GUTO or my failure to understand any equine professional's directions relating to my interactions or otherwise use and control, or lack thereof, of the horse involved in activities.

**Under Florida law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities. (FL Statute 773)**

**Please select the appropriate response and sign accordingly.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am voluntarily entering into this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement.

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_.  
I have read the agreement above, and give permission for him/her to participate in all equine activities.

Parent / Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIAN

Please provide this sheet, along with the following forms to your physician.

The following conditions, if present, may represent precautions or contraindications to adaptive/therapeutic horseback riding. Therefore, when completing the following forms, please note whether these conditions are present and, if so, to what degree.

### **ORTHOPEDIC**

Spinal Fusion Spinal  
Instabilities/Abnormalities  
Alantoaxial Instabilities  
Scoliosis  
Kyphosis  
Lordosis  
Hip Subluxation and Dislocation  
Osteoporosis  
Pathologic Fractures  
Coxas Arthrosis  
Heterotopic Ossification  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta  
Cranial Deficits  
Spinal Orthoses  
Internal Spinal Stabilization  
Disease

### **MEDICAL / SURGICAL**

Cancer  
Poor Endurance  
Recent Surgery  
Diabetes  
Peripheral Vascular Disease  
Varicose Veins  
Hemophilia  
Hypertension  
Serious Heart Condition  
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Accident)  
Allergies

### **NEUROLOGIC**

Hydorcephalus/shunt  
Spina bifida  
Tethered Cord  
Chiaril Malformation  
Hydromyelia  
Paralysis due to Spinal Cord Injury  
Seizure Disorders

### **SECONDARY CONCERNS**

Behavior Problems  
Age under 2 years  
Age 2 - 4 years  
Acute exacerbation of Chronic disorder  
Indwelling catheter

## Client Medical History & Physicians' Statement

Participant Name:	*Height:	*Weight:
Diagnosis:	Date of Onset:	Last Exam Date:

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Past/Prospective Surgeries: \_\_\_\_\_

Shunt Present? Y N Date of last revision: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Precautions, Diets/Needs/Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ May participate in all activities \_\_\_ May participate except for: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobility: Independent Ambulation? Y N Assisted Ambulation? Y N Wheelchair? Y N

Braces/Assistive Devices: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if patient has a problem and/or surgical history in any of the following areas:

AREA	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Auditory			
Visual			
Tactile Sensation			
Speech			
Skin			
Cardiac			
Circulatory			
Learning Disability			
Mental Impairment			
Allergies			
Immunity			
Pulmonary			
Neurologic			
Muscular			
Orthopedic			
Cognitive			
Emotional/Psychological			
Other			

**\*Physician Must Sign and Date this Form Below\***

I have seen and provided an exam for this individual within the last 12 months and to my knowledge, there is no reason why this person cannot participate in supervised equine activities. However, I understand that Grace Under the Oaks will weigh the medical information above against the existing precautions and contraindications. Therefore, I refer this person to Grace Under the Oaks for ongoing evaluation to determine eligibility for participation. I have read the attached precautions and contraindications.

Licensed Medical Examiner's Signature:	Date:
Name (please print):	Phone:
Address:	Email:

**If participant has Down Syndrome or a history of seizures please continue onto next Page.**

## Physician Statement Continued

### \*Participants with Down syndrome

Does the individual have an annual medical clearance from a licensed physician that includes a neurological exam that specifically denies any symptoms consistent with atlanto-axial instability? Yes No

Has there been a neurological exam that specifically denies any symptoms consistent with atlantoaxial instability (AAI) in the last year? Yes No

By signing below I confirm that the participant has revealed no signs of AAI or decrease in neurological function. To my knowledge there is no reason why this person cannot participate in supervised equestrian activities:

Licensed Medical Examiner's Signature:	Date of EXAM:
Physician's Name (please print):	Phone:
Address:	

### \*Participants with Seizure Disorders

PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Intl) recommends the following information for PATH operating Centers for riders with seizure disorders.

Would you consider \_\_\_\_\_'s seizures to be:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Completely controlled      \_\_\_\_\_ Very well controlled      \_\_\_\_\_ Not controlled by medication

Note that the following are contraindications to riding:

- Recent seizure activity accompanied by strong, uncontrollable motor activity or atonic or drop attack seizures due to their sudden and complete loss of postural muscle tone
- A change of frequency or type of seizure until the condition is evaluated
- Inability to manage a participant during an emergency dismount should a seizure occur.

Type of seizure:	
Typical motor activity during seizure:	
Description of clients behavior during seizure state:	
Specific directions as to what to do if a seizure should occur at Grace Under the Oaks:	
Physician's signature	Date:

## 2022 Rider Weight Policy Addendum

At Grace Under the Oaks, safety is our primary concern. We must ensure the health and wellness of our participants, volunteers, instructors and horses as mandated by PATH Intl. Horses are selected for participants based on a rider's skill set, stability on the horse, equipment available, horse confirmation, movement and rider's weight.

Grace Under the Oaks has maximum weight limits of 200 lbs for independent riders and 170 lbs for supported riders. Each horse has been evaluated to determine their individual rider weight limits based on their weight, age, height and physical fitness. Instructors will review rider levels and the weight limits for the participant's assigned horse at the start of each semester.

All individuals participating in adaptive riding lessons are evaluated as they enter the program and are reassessed annually to ensure the safety of their participation in mounted activities. Among the factors to be considered will be the availability of appropriate horses, volunteers, and tack. Please note that the herd, volunteers and tack at GUTO is dynamic and due to this fact, we may not always have horses, tack or volunteers available to safely accommodate every individual who wishes to participate. Rider weights will be checked and recorded at the beginning of the fall and spring semester. If a rider's weight is within 3 lbs of their determined ability level weight limit for their assigned horse, a weight check will be required at the start of each lesson.

### RIDER LEVELS WITH WEIGHT AND SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS

#### Independent Riders:

Rider must be able to mount and dismount independently for standard and emergency dismounts.

Rider does not require the support of sidewalkers.

Beginner Independent	Advanced Independent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing consistent control of horse while unclipped / may require a spotter at the leader position</li> <li>Maximum weight – 180 lbs</li> <li>Developing control, stability and balance at a walk and trot (posting and sitting) in all the following areas:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seat</li> <li>- Lower leg</li> <li>- Core and upper body</li> </ul> </li> <li>Developing ability to correctly isolate aids in a purposeful and controlled fashion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates consistent control of horse while unclipped / does not require a spotter at the leader position</li> <li>Maximum weight – 200 lbs</li> <li>Demonstrates adequate control, stability and balance at a walk and trot (posting and sitting) in all the following areas:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seat</li> <li>- Lower leg</li> <li>- Core and upper body</li> </ul> </li> <li>Demonstrates ability to correctly isolate aids in a purposeful and controlled fashion</li> </ul>

#### Supported Riders:

Rider requires support for standard and emergency dismounts. Rider does require the support of a horse leader and/or sidewalkers.

Supported Beginner	Supported Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing consistent control of horse while clipped</li> <li>Maximum weight – 140 lbs ** At the discretion of the instructor; a maximum weight of up to 170 lbs may be allowed ONLY if the needed horse, volunteers and personnel are available for support**</li> <li>Has not yet developed consistent control, stability, and balance at a walk in all the following areas:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seat</li> <li>- Lower leg</li> <li>- Core and upper body</li> </ul> </li> <li>Developing understanding of isolating aids in a purposeful and controlled fashion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates consistent control of horse while clipped</li> <li>Maximum weight – 170 lbs</li> <li>Demonstrates moderate control, stability, and balance at a walk in all the following areas:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seat</li> <li>- Lower leg</li> <li>- Core and upper body</li> </ul> </li> <li>Developing understanding of isolating aids in a purposeful and controlled fashion</li> </ul>