



Nottingham Equestrian Center
16848 Towar, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-7304

Girl Scout "Horse Fan" Badge

Thank you for choosing Nottingham Equestrian Center for your Girl Scout Badge experience. Here at Nottingham we pride ourselves in providing the best equestrian education possible while also giving children a safe and fun riding experience as well as wonderful interaction with our animals.

The entire "Horse Fan" badge experience will take 2-3 hours depending on the size of the troop. Please make sure that all troop members arrive to Nottingham dressed for the weather (some of the non-mounted portions will be held in a heated observation room) including MANDATORY long pants. Jeans are preferred but any long pants will suffice. Boots of any style are required, NO CROCS or flip flops/sandals of any kind. We do have riding boots available to borrow here, however quantity and sizes are limited. All protective headgear will be provided. Also, you will be receiving with this letter Student Liability Cards that MUST be filled out by each scout's parent and brought with the group in order for a scout to ride. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to these rules; they are for everyone's safety.

Feel free to bring food and beverages for your troop as we do have space available for a post ride snack. If you have any questions regarding any of our policies or for any special requests please feel free to call us: (517) 351-7304.

For the "Horse Fan" Badge, Junior Girl Scouts will complete 6 of the 10 listed Activities in their Badge Book. **Many of the Activities are research projects that the girls are to look up and find out about themselves.** The intent of this badge is for the girls to spend time researching these subjects. Therefore, in the spirit of this intent, Nottingham Equestrian Center will provide some guidance, but **leave some portions for individual and troop work.** We will go over information that the girls are to find by contacting a stable or riding facility. We will also give some ideas on some of the other information they are to collect for other Activity choices. We will customize the Clinic Sessions to your troop.

Following are 8 activities N.E.C. provides for the Horse Fan Badge,

Activity # 1 - "On the Trail":

- We will give the required information for N.E.C.
- Our Prices for riding: lessons, leasing a horse, and boarding a horse
- Our "specialty"
- Information about instructions, horse requirements, indoor & outdoor rings.
- **The Scouts will have to call other Riding facilities for their information**



Girl Scout "Horse Fan" Badge

Nottingham Equestrian Center
16848 Towan, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-7304

Activity # 2 - "Caring for Horses":

We can provide all the information the girls need for this Activity

- The general care of a horse
- How much and what kind of food a horse needs daily
- Acceptable treats for horses
- Everyday care in a stable; practice cleaning a stall
- How often a horse needs to be shod or trimmed, and why

Activity # 3 - "Fashion and Function":

- We will discuss the different clothing options for English and Western riding, including what is worn at competitive Horse Shows
- We will go over the safety features in the footwear, pants, jackets, and helmets
- **The Scouts will still need to collect some pictures or articles of clothing on their own, or as a troop activity. They may wish to have their own discussion session at one of their meetings to fulfill the "Show the correct and safe clothing" and the "Point out to others the safety features" requirements.**

Activity # 4 - "Horses Through History":

- We will briefly discuss the evolution of the horse, including the first prehistoric horse, the disappearance from and then reappearance to North America, size changes, and toes to hooves.
- We will show the principal parts of a horse, using a drawing and a real horse
- **The Scouts will still need to find books to use to make their own illustrated booklets required for this badge**

Activity # 5 - "Make a Career of Riding":

We can provide all the information the girls need for this Activity

- We will enumerate several different careers associated with horses
- We will discuss at greater length the careers of: Riding Instructor, Horse Trainer, and Barn Manager
- We will go over the type of training and experience the Nottingham Instructor needed before she could teach others

Activity # 6 - "Ease with Equipment":

We can provide all the information the girls need for this Activity

- We will go over the basic parts of the saddle and bridle
- We will discuss how the parts contribute to the comfort of the horse and rider



Nottingham Equestrian Center
16848 Towar, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-7304

Girl Scout "Horse Fan" Badge

- We will discuss the care of the saddle and bridle and how to keep them in good repair
- We will demonstrate the saddling and bridling of a horse and have the girls "assist"

Activity # 7 - "Horse Stories ":

- We can give some suggestions; however, **this is an Activity which the girls should do on their own (most kids interested in horses have read several books already)**

Activity # 8 - "Showing Off ":

- We do have a weekly Horse Camp that is offered during the summer months, and by request during school breaks. We have a "Horse Show" on the Friday of every camp week. The Horse Show is for the campers to show off the riding skills they have learned during the week to family and friends. To choose this Activity Option (participation), the Scouts would do a Camp week.
- **The Scouts can do this Activity on their own by simply watching a horse-based performance**

Thank you again for choosing N.E.C and we know you will enjoy your equestrian experience!