



GREAT OAK

EQUINE ASSISTED PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES & APPLICATION

Great Oak Aiken strives to make our services available to all participants whose application for registration is accepted. Great Oak fulfills this mission through the generosity of our supporters and the administration of a scholarship program based on financial need. Our scholarship funds come in through our annual fundraising and are not guaranteed.

The actual cost per lesson per rider is approximately \$100, however the tuition is \$40, so 60% is already subsidized. Scholarships are based solely upon financial need.

Scholarship Policies

Great Oak determines financial eligibility using the HUD Income Guidelines Scale for Aiken County. Please keep a copy of the following scholarship policy for your records:

- A Scholarship Application Form must be completed at the time of your application for the program, including tax-returns or supporting documentation of financial need. All the information is kept confidential.
- Scholarships provided are based upon financial NEED, on a first come, first served, basis until all scholarship monies are allocated and/or spent. New requests may be submitted at any time. Please allow 30 days for Scholarships to be reviewed and considered. Renewal requests require a new application annually, beginning January 1st.

Great Oak charges tuition per session. Scholarships are applied against the session tuition as a percentage discount. This approach allows at least some access to services for all participants who qualify.

Great Oak does not provide full (100%) scholarships for tuition. Every client must pay at least a minimal amount towards their session. All balances must be paid in full by the end of each session in order to continue riding in the following session.

All applicants must complete all sections of the application to be considered for a scholarship. This includes submission of proof of financial eligibility.

Scholarships may be revoked if the participant misses 2 or more classes during a session. The only exception to this rule will be a doctor excused extended absence.

If Household Gross Income changes during the year, applicant must promptly submit new income documentation which may increase or decrease scholarship award.

Great Oak reserves the right to waive specific requirements on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship recipients and/or their parents or care providers are encouraged to volunteer to help contribute towards the program needs.

Here is a list of ways you can help:

- Volunteer a minimum of one hour a week during the ten week session. Parents/care givers are welcome to volunteer during their child's lesson (requires attendance at one volunteer orientation and training).
- Volunteer for a Great Oak sponsored event.
- Volunteer in the Great Oak office.
- Set up a fundraising page and raise additional funds for Great Oak.

If none of these options work for you, please call Director Nicole Pioli at 803-226-0056 to discuss other ways to help.

It is important to emphasize that scholarship funds are limited. Scholarship requests are reviewed strictly on household income and number of dependents so as to be fair. It is our goal to assist as many children and adults with disabilities as possible who need our services.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

Great Oak Aiken Therapeutic Riding Center strives to make our services available to all participants whose application for registration is accepted but cannot afford full tuition. Great Oak fulfills this mission through the generosity of our supporters and the administration of a scholarship program based on financial need. Our scholarship funds come in through our annual fundraising and are not guaranteed. Applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the start of the session for which they will be used.

Participant's Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Date of Birth: _____

Disability: _____

Has participant previously engaged in Therapeutic Riding at Great Oak? Yes No

If yes, when? _____

Has participant previously received a Great Oak Scholarship? Yes No

If yes, when? _____

Scholarship amount requested? _____

(Sessions are 10 weeks for \$400 / Private and Semi-Private lessons are \$50 per lesson.)

Are any other family members applying for or have previously received a Rider Scholarship? Yes No

If yes, who? _____ When? _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Participant resides with Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

For Great Oak Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Date Reviewed: _____

Amount Granted: _____

Why Denied: _____

Date: _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following information is required for financial aid. Please list all forms of income received on a monthly basis. Mark N/A for any that do not apply to you.

Number of individuals in the household, including adults and all dependents? _____

Wages:	Alimony/Spousal Support (income):
Interest from Savings:	Welfare/General Assistance:
Social Security Benefits:	Pension/Retirement:
VA Benefits:	Insurance Benefits:
Medicaid:	Respite Care:
Unemployment:	Disability Payments/Workers' Comp:
Child Support (income):	Other:
Spousal Support:	Total Monthly Income:

*Please provide 2 months current documentation of the above claimed income/benefits including Household W-2 or 2 months Household pay stubs. If not available, a letter from a case worker identifying all government assistance received.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. In what other types of activities and therapy does this rider participate and how often?

2. Please list any unusual circumstances (debts, illness, etc.) that contribute to your need for assistance?

Please sign and date all applicable requirements below:

- I agree to the volunteer requirement to help contribute towards the program needs.
- Great Oak will be strictly enforcing an attendance policy for scholarship riders. Any scholarship rider who misses more than 2 of their lessons in any one term will forfeit their scholarship. The only exception to this rule will be a doctor excused extended absence. A Scholarship rider who misses a lesson and does not call ahead to cancel will be charged \$10.

I understand that _____ (name of scholarship recipient) will automatically forfeit his/her Great Oak scholarship if more than 2 lesson in any one session are missed and that a "no show" fee will be charged if a cancellation call is not placed 1 hour prior to the start of the lesson.

I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also acknowledge that by accepting a Rider Scholarship I agree to the terms set form in the Rider Scholarship Guidelines.

Signature: _____

Date: _____