MIDLAND COUNTY 4-H EXCEPTIONAL RIDERS

TALL IN THE SADDLE

June 19, 2026

From: Betsy Evans, Committee Chairman, Rider Coordinator
Midland County 4-H Exceptional Riders—Tall in the Saddle

To: Riders & Families
Volunteers
Dee Howe, Midland County Extension 4-H Coordinator

Thank you to all who made Tall in the Saddle's Spring 2026 session successful for all our riders.

Our 8 riders enjoyed working with all our volunteers who did a great job of interacting with each of them. The volunteers made each rider stay safe, able to follow instructor Tamara's lesson plans each week, and have fun interactions with others.

Committee members have all worked hard to make each session a success, including Spring 2026.

That being said, the committee met this past week to discuss how this past spring's session went and to plan for the future. What became clear in our discussions is that we need to take a break from offering riding classes this fall. We do plan to resume classes for the Spring 2027 session. The following are reasons for this:

Horses: The horses we currently have been using are aging and several have had intermittent health issues. They range in age from 17 to 31 years old. Carrying disabled riders is one of the most difficult tasks horses can do so we are especially concerned. Stephanie, barn manager at Wooden Gate Stables is planning to look for new lesson horses which we can then test for our use, but new possible mounts will take time to find.

Volunteers: Our ability to maintain the necessary number of volunteers for each session was challenged this spring. We had one night we had to cancel because of insufficient numbers of volunteers. Having a robust list of trained/approved people who we can count on to show up each night takes a lot of background energy that is not apparent on the surface.

Committee: This committee has been together a long time and works very well together. We are, however, in need of finding new committee members to take on or assist with all of our roles.

1) Michelle will stay on as Volunteer Coordinator through spring 2027 to train the next Volunteer Coordinator so it is critical to find her replacement as soon as possible.
2) Nan is unable to commit the time to take on the search/testing of 2-3 more horses for our fall program. In the spring, she would like to train someone to take on her Horse Coordinator role.
3) Connie needs to find someone to train to assist with and eventually take on the job of Equipment Coordinator. She also is the committee's treasurer.
4) Betsy needs to find someone to train to assist with and eventually take on the jobs of 4-H Administrative Leader, Committee Chairman, or Rider Coordinator.
5) Tamara is looking for someone who can become a PATH International/4-H PEP certified riding instructor to share the load of teaching Tall in the Saddle classes.

Please contact any current committee member or Betsy Evans if you feel, after receiving this letter, that you might be interested in joining our committee to help with any of the work we do.

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