

TALL IN THE SADDLE is a Michigan 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP). Our instructors are trained through the Michigan 4-H Proud Equestrian Program and certified by the MSU PEP Program or Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. <http://www.pathintl.org>

Although we receive help in the form of training and organization from 4-H, all funds to pay for insurance, equipment, and other program expenses are raised within the county by community volunteers. Donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information about the Midland County Tall in The Saddle Program please visit our web site at: <http://www.tallinthesaddle.info> or contact:

MSU Extension Service
220 W. Ellsworth St.
Midland, MI 48640
Telephone: (989) 832-6641



Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all with regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.



MIDLAND COUNTY 4-H EXCEPTIONAL RIDERS

Adapted from:
I SAW A CHILD - John Anthony Davies

I saw a child who could only crawl
Mount a horse and sit up tall.
Put it through degrees of paces
And laugh at the wonder in our faces.

I saw a child born into strife,
Take up and hold the reins of life
And that same child was heard to say,
Thank God for showing me the way....

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM...

The Midland County 4-H Exceptional Riders Program, TALL IN THE SADDLE, started in 1976 through the interest of local friends and parents. Initial purchase of equipment was possible through donated funds. The program was then, and continues to be entirely supported and run by volunteers.

At full capacity, our program can accommodate 20 students. Either a state licensed occupational or physical therapist and our certified riding instructors review applicants to our program. Applicants can apply within an age range of 8 years to 24 years old. Please see the admission policies on the back of our application form for more information. They are available by contacting the Midland County MSU Extension office.

We offer classes for eight weeks in the spring and fall. Our weekly classes are held at local privately owned farms and both program and privately owned horses are trailered in for our use.

OUR PROGRAM NEEDS...

Our organization relies heavily for its continued success on the help of volunteers.

We use volunteers in our classes as "horse leaders" and as "side walkers". *Horse leaders* provide a safety measure so that the horse will never be out of control of the rider. *Side walkers* walk alongside of the student sometimes providing physical support to the student and sometimes just reinforcing the commands of the instructor or offering emotional support.



We also need volunteers who donate the use of their horse(s) for our classes. We very much appreciate these special volunteers who commit both their time and their horse(s) so that our program can continue.

Another need is for volunteers who can help with special activities such as publicity, fund-raising and our annual

horse show.

OUR RIDERS . . .

Classes are geared to individual riders and are coordinated with their abilities in mind. They are taught to ride - not taken for a ride. Some students may never master riding independently but all will benefit in balance, posture, and coordination. Improvements come gradually as the rider's progress in skill levels.

Horseback riding can be a therapeutic form of recreation for people with the following disabilities:

- Mental disability
- Emotional disability
- Learning disability
- Hearing disability
- Visual disability
- Physical disability

Horseback riding and following commands from a Proud Equestrian Program (PEP) trained instructor builds concentration skills, muscle control, self-esteem, and self-confidence. The horse provides a freedom that many of our riders do not experience in daily life. The horse is an equalizer that gives the student a chance to achieve a talent that other children can achieve.