

Welcome!

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us here at Master's Touch Recreational Riding. We look forward to serving you and your family for many years to come. MTRR is a faith-based, board-supervised, nonprofit 501c3 corporation. Master's Touch specializes in working with individuals with developmental, physical, or cognitive delays and autism spectrum disorder, while also providing traditional riding lessons for all ages and skill levels. Although the primary focus of the program is the student's success, the facility creates a relaxing, rejuvenating environment for families and caregivers as well.

Founder & Program Director

Makayla Parr is the Founder and Program Director of Master's Touch Recreational Riding. Raised here in Social Circle, GA, Makayla developed her love for animals and the outdoors at a young age. As a middle-school student, she began to study the value of hippotherapy and foster a dream of using her beloved animals to enrich the lives of others. In her sixteen years of experience as an equestrian, Makayla participated in multiple disciplines such as hunt seat, working cow, reining, cutting, mounted drill team, driving, and vaulting. She holds regional, state, and national titles in many of them. Makayla began her teaching career as a high school student while competing at a national level with 4-H, IEA, Mounted Drill, and the NRHA. She went on to win a NCAA scholarship for the University of South Carolina Equestrian Team. While there, Makayla served all four years as the team prayer leader and continued to nurture her dream for a therapeutic riding career through equestrian work with Curing Kids Cancer, volunteering at a hippotherapy therapy barn, and working as an assistant coach for the Georgia Equestrian Special Olympics. She was awarded as a MVP, recognized consistently on the SEC Honor Roll, and was appointed to the 2017 SEC Community Service Team. In May of 2017, she returned home to achieve her lifelong dream of opening a therapeutic riding facility. With the generous help of family, close friends, and numerous volunteers, her dreams have become her reality.

Program Goals and Vision

On December 3, 2017, MTRR opened officially as a Recreational Riding Facility. Recreational Riding differs from traditional riding in that it focuses on developing more than basic riding technique. With equine-assisted activities directed toward improving motor, verbal, and communication skills, sensory integration, socialization, coordination, and emotional control, the horse is used as a catalyst to bring about the best in the rider. In addition to Recreational Riding, the program has grown to include Small Spurs (for ages under 5), Silver Spurs (for the young at heart), traditional riding for all ages, and Recreational Driving, with each new program continuing to follow the recreational riding model. Riding (or driving) is many more things than simply riding or driving. We learn about relationships - to care and empathize with another one of God's creatures. We learn to communicate verbally and non-verbally. We balance and breathe and learn to be brave. We fail and try again to succeed. And with God's help, we will succeed. Thank you for taking this journey with us. We hope you enjoy the ride.

Blessings,
Holly Belcher
Board Chairman



Riding Covenant for New Students

In order to ensure coordinated care, staff and volunteers are provided with information about abilities/disabilities of participants.

Participant's Name _____ **Preferred Name** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Age** _____ **Male or Female** (circle one) **Height** _____ **Weight** _____

Street _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ (home/cell) **Phone** _____ (home/cell)

Email address: _____

School Name _____ **Grade** _____

Diagnosis (optional):

Primary _____ *Secondary* _____

Emergency Medical Treatment

Physician's Name _____ **Phone** _____

Health Insurance Company _____ **Policy #** _____

Preferred Medical Facility _____

Allergies/Allergies to medication _____

Current medications _____

In the event of an emergency contact: Name _____

Cell phone _____ **Relationship** _____

Consent to 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 Master's Touch Recreational Riding, I authorize Master's Touch Recreational Riding to: 1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed. 2. Release records upon request to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment. This authorization includes x-rays, surgery, hospitalization, medication, and any treatment procedure deemed "life-saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached.

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

Adult Participant SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____ **Parent/Guardian if participant is under 18 years of age Relationship**
to participant if participant is under 18 years of age _____

Health Survey

Does the student have....	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Have a history of seizures?			
Follow simple directions?			
Have speech or language difficulties?			
Have communication difficulties?			
Have a fear of animals/horses?			
Walk independently?			
Have limited range of motion?			
Have decreased strength/endurance?			
Have poor balance (sitting/standing)?			
Have problems with gross motor skills?			
Have problems with fine motor skills?			
Have altered sensation? (Specify)			
Have heart/circulation problems?			
Have digestion/elimination problems?			
Have bone/joint problems?			
Have allergies or breathing problems?			
Have emotional/behavioral problems?			

Independent Ambulation?			
Assisted Ambulation?			
Braces/Assistive Devices?			

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional information that you feel would be helpful in lesson planning for this participant.

How did you hear of our program? _____

Please check the service of interest: (See page 2 for description of services)

- Recreational Riding
- Western/English Riding Lessons
- Group lessons
- Small Spurs
- Silver Spurs
- Recreational Driving
- Finding Shalom

Please check your primary goal(s) while at MTRR.

- ☐ Equestrian/horsemanship (goals_____)
- ☐ Recreational/therapeutic (goals_____)
- ☐ Social (goals_____)
- ☐ Other _____

Fees and Payment Procedures

- Recreational Riding: \$45/\$40 (when enrolled) for 45 min
 - Rec Riding group fee: \$35 per lesson (enrolled only)
 - Small Spurs: \$40/\$35 (when enrolled) for 30 min
 - Group Small Spurs fee: \$35 per lesson (enrolled only)
 - Silver Spurs: \$45/\$40 (when enrolled) for 45 min
 - Recreational Driving: \$45/\$40 (when enrolled) for 45 min
 - Western/English Riding: \$50/\$45 (when enrolled) for 1 hr.
 - Group Western/English Riding Fee: \$35 per lesson. (must be enrolled, evaluated by instructor)
 - Finding Shalom: \$150/month (upon intake and enrollment)
 - Sessions take place 1x/week for 1hr.
 - **Financial scholarships are available for families who need assistance.**
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- **Riding Lessons: Discounted fees at a rate of \$20.00 per month are available when students enroll for an entire semester and pay the monthly enrollment fee by the first of each month. (This is a savings of more than \$80 for the semester)**
 - Fees must be paid by cash, check, or card using the QuickBooks link emailed. (at the barn or online).
 - Fees paid after the 10th of the month are subject to a “late fee” of \$25.00
 - All bank fees charged for returned checks are the responsibility of the participant.
 - Fees for using a card will be paid by the participant
 - Payments can be paid by mail or in person– Send payments to Master’s Touch 2794 McGarity Road, Social Circle, GA 30025. Fees paid in person are to be placed in the drop box located on the side of the office. Please put the payment in a closed envelope, label it with the rider's name and the date of the lesson. They should not be given to the instructors or volunteers.

I have read and understand the fees and payments procedures _____

Attendance and Make-Up Policies

Each instructor may have different makeup clinic dates and times so they will reach out to you with your makeup options each month. Different makeup options may be provided throughout the week on a case by case basis at the discretion of your instructor. Clients may have three reschedules per semester. Once a client has used all three allotted reschedules, any additional requests to move a lesson will be considered a cancellation. The lesson will be forfeited, payment will not be refunded or credited, and no makeup lesson will be provided.

If an instructor has to reschedule a lesson for any reason, including weather-related cancellations or other scheduling conflicts, the rescheduled lesson will NOT count toward the client's allotted makeups. We will offer makeup lessons for any lessons that are rescheduled by the instructor.

All makeup lessons accumulated must be caught up by the start of the next semester or they will be forfeited.

Special exceptions are up to the discretion of each instructor.

Once a client has canceled or rescheduled 4 times within a semester, they will be excused from the program.

Exceptions can be made by the director.

For makeup scheduling, the office will make 2 attempts to contact the client to arrange a makeup date. If the client does not respond within a reasonable timeframe or does not have any available dates that work with the program's schedule, the missed lessons will be considered forfeited.

Restorative program sessions (Finding Shalom) are held rain or shine, therefore make up sessions will be scheduled at the discretion of the mentor if needed.

****I have read and understand the Attendance and Make-up Policies**_____

Please check preferred schedule/payment	Program Descriptions
○ <u>Fall Semester 1</u> (pay by month) • Dates: August 3- September 30 • No Classes: Sep. 7 (Labor Day) ● <u>Fall Semester 2</u> (pay by month) • Dates: October 1- December 18 • No Classes: Nov. 11 (Veterans Day) • No Classes: Nov 23-27 (Thanksgiving Holiday) □ <u>Winter Semester</u> (pay by month) Dates: January 4 – March 31 • No Classes: Jan. 18 (MLK Day) • No Classes: Feb. 15 (President’s Day) ● <u>Spring Semester</u> (pay by month) ○ Dates: April 1- May 24 ○ No Classes: the week of May 25th ● <u>Summer Semester</u> (No enrollment, book online and pay by session) • Dates: June 1- July 31 • No Classes: July 4 (Independence Day) Students who are not enrolled need to book online and pay by the session unless otherwise instructed by the scheduling manager. *Individual sessions may additionally be booked upon request during semester breaks, aside from holidays* Private fees: ● Recreational Riding fees:\$45 per session ● Small Spurs fees:\$40 per session ● Silver Spurs fees: \$45 per session ● Recreational Driving fees: \$45 per session ● Western Riding Lessons fees: \$50 per session	Recreational Riding is designed to provide a therapeutic experience for children and adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities through the development of horseback riding skills. These sessions focus on exercises intended to improve cognitive, physical, emotional, and social. Catering to students 5 years and older, students will participate in activities on the sensory trail as well as learn riding skills in the arena. Small Spurs is a program that caters to children under the age of 5, using equine-assisted activities for physical, mental, or social development. All mounted exercises are designed to positively influence cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development. Silver Spurs is Recreational riding sessions for ages 65+ to improve balance, coordination, memory, daily life skills, overall mood, and more. During the sessions, the riders will also experience a sense of purpose and responsibility through learning how to take care of their lesson horse. Recreational Driving sessions are offered but not limited to children and adults who struggle with physical, mental, sensory, or emotional disabilities. It allows students the opportunity to experience control of a horse while sitting in a cart. During the session, the individual will have the opportunity to learn how to care for the horse, tack up, and control the horse from their buggy. The service provides a riding alternative for those who are unable to ride in a saddle due to weight, balance, fatigue, allergies, fear of heights, asthma, anxiety or are unable to sit astride. Western/English Riding sessions are traditional riding sessions available to anyone over the age of 5 years old. Students will focus on mastering basic riding and horsemanship skills as well as horse care. Group Western/English Riding sessions are limited to students with more experience in the program and must be approved by the instructor. They focus on increasing horsemanship skills and knowledge of multiple riders. Finding Shalom is a faith-based mentorship program designed for individuals who have experienced hardship or adversity. Through biblical guidance, equine-assisted activities, and time spent in nature, participants gain emotional, social, and spiritual tools to navigate life's challenges. Rooted in faith, this program fosters healing, resilience, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Group fees: • Western/English Group: \$35 per session billed monthly (enrolled only) • Recreational Riding Group: \$35 per session billed monthly (enrolled only) • Small Spur Group: \$35 per session billed monthly (enrolled only) Restorative Program Fees: • Finding Shalom: \$165/ billed monthly once intake and enrollment is complete.	
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MTRR Guidelines

Benefits of Becoming an MTRR Member

- What is a member: students committing to a semester with signed contract and monthly payments
- Priority scheduling: There is a waiting list for many after-school session hours. Clients with current contracts will be given priority when choosing lesson times. Schedule opportunities for the next semester will be provided to enrolled members before non-enrolled members.
- Events: Members will have priority in obtaining spots for camp, clinics and other events and services offered during the year with limited space available.
- Fee discounts: Enrolling and paying per month is a \$20 savings over individual booking and paying per session.

Initial _____

Lesson Standard

- A horse will be provided for the participant based on a number of factors. The participant is not promised to ride the same horse every session. Horses have bad days like humans and occasionally may be unavailable for a session.
- In the event the client does not have a mounted lesson (due to non-cooperative behavior), payment is still expected.

Initial _____

Dress Code for Participants

- Appropriate attire is essential for the comfort & safety of the participant. Long pants are required. Pants that are made of nylon, polyester, or other “slippery” materials are not acceptable.
- **Boots are mandatory for all participants.** Participants riding with stirrups will need appropriate riding boots.
- Please refrain from wearing revealing clothing, clothing with inappropriate messages, blood, gore, skulls, and any other violent references.
- Please provide jackets, sweaters, gloves, etc. in the event of colder temperatures. Remember, the arena is not heated.
- Shorts, skirts or dresses are not permitted. Participant’s legs can become irritated unless they are protected. Exceptions may only be made by the instructor.
- The participant may NOT ride if not dressed appropriately. If a participant comes to sessions in inappropriate footwear or clothing, the participant will not be permitted to ride, but will still be charged for the session.
- Helmets must be worn by all participants prior to and through the entire session time. MTRR will provide an ASTM/SEI certified helmet if the participant does not have their own.

Initial _____

MTRR Etiquette

- The covered area in front of the classroom, picnic tables, tractor playground, lawn, garden, and hiking trails (when not being used by horses) are available for your enjoyment while you are waiting on a lesson. Please ask one of our staff members before you go on any trails or in the mini barn for the safety of our animals and clients. The classroom, new enclosures behind the mud kitchen, and pastures are strictly off limits during lessons. Please do not go behind any closed doors or closed gates without permission. Your children can play on the tractor playground and mud kitchen; however, you **MUST** clean up any mess made before you leave. If any families leave behind a mess, we will either ask you to not use those spaces anymore, or charge a fee for those amenities. Please be mindful and courteous when using these spaces.
- Parents, guardians, and guests are expected to help us maintain a quiet atmosphere, especially around the horses and students. Yelling of any kind will not be tolerated on the farm. If you need to discipline your child, we just ask that you take them to the restroom so that it does not distract from the sessions taking place around the farm.
- Our first priority is to our riders, so please be quiet and considerate of sessions in progress
- Only the instructor, volunteers, and participants directly involved in sessions are allowed in the arena, sensory trail, and tacking areas at all times, unless directed otherwise by the instructor.
- If a previous session is in progress or dismounting, please stay in the car or quietly go to parent/participant waiting areas listed above.
- All participants are to wait in designated non-rider areas with their guardian areas until it is time for their lesson.
- If you need to talk to the Instructor about medical or physical problems which may have a safety implication for the current session, please do so before the mounting phase begins.
- ☐ While a riding session is in progress, all parents, family members, and guests are welcome to use our playground, trails (ask a staff member first), garden, or other family areas previously listed.

- ☐ All scheduling must be done outside of session times through our office administrator for an effective teaching/therapeutic environment.
- ☐ Please do not run around animals or through the barn. While our horses are not easily spooked, they are still flight animals and can cause dangerous situations when startled.

Initial _____

Social Media

- ☐ Please ask your instructor for permission before posting pictures/videos taken of our animals or staff on personal social media accounts.

Initial _____

Supervision Requirements

- All participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or adult unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. An adult must remain on the premises that will be responsible for any dependent's needs and/or emergencies and must accompany participants unless approved by the instructor.
- Children under the age of 18 are not permitted to enter the miniature animal enclosure without an adult unless advised by the instructor.
- All participants must follow the rules and guidelines posted at the miniature animal enclosure. Failure to do so will result in dismissal of the enclosure.
- If a guardian is approved to leave the premises during the session, the guardian must arrive back before the session ends. You **MUST** ask the instructor for approval before leaving the property during your child's lesson.
- Participants are responsible for any guests accompanying them.
- **Any siblings or minors MUST stay with the guardian at all times during the lesson. Please do not leave any children unattended at any time.**

Initial _____

Horses

- Please do not feed any of the horses unless authorized by the instructor. Our horses' diets are supervised solely by our Equine Director.
- If you are bringing any type of treat for our horses such as carrots, apples, etc. you may let the instructor know and the proper treat can be given (with the instructor's help) at the end of the session.
- Participants are not permitted to go into the barn area or pasture without an instructor's authorization.

Initial _____

Pets

- While we strive to provide a safe environment for the whole family, pets are not permitted on the premises. Exceptions are made for certified companions or working therapy support animals. Please notify us before bringing a therapy animal on the property so we can properly prepare our animals for an unfamiliar dog. Therapy animals are not allowed at any time to enter or approach the MT miniature animal enclosure.

Initial _____

Smoking or Vaping

- No smoking or vaping is permitted on the property by participants, volunteers, or guests at any time. Even vaping or smoking in the car at the parking lot with a window cracked is enough to spook a horse that your child might be riding.

Initial _____

Parking

- Please park in the designated areas. The area near the walk-through gate and on the back side of the restrooms is reserved for our staff members. Please be sure to reserve that space for staff.
- Help us maintain the safety of everyone involved by using a 10 MPH courtesy standard when entering and exiting the property. We could have horses and/or participants moving from one area to another. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- When entering the driveway and parking lot, please treat this as a quiet zone. Sessions are in progress, and loud noises or unexpected movements have the tendency to spook even the best horses.

Initial _____

Payments

- Payment is due by the 10th of every month. If your payment is late, a late fee will be added to your invoice. We accept payments via card, exact cash in a labeled envelope, or check. Please do not use Cash App, PayPal, or any other app as a form of payment. If your payments are consistently late or if there are outstanding invoices that have not been paid, it is up to the discretion of the director whether your child will be allowed to continue enrollment. Please check your email regularly to make sure all invoices have been paid, as we send out regular reminders. It is necessary for payments to be made on time.
- Due to an increase in fees, we will have to begin passing along the credit card usage charge to those who pay online. This is what the “convenience fee” on your invoice is. If you bring a check or cash to the farm, you will not need to pay the convenience fee listed on your invoice; you will pay the subtotal. When bringing cash or a check to the farm, please do not give it to your instructor or any other farm employee/volunteer. Please put the payment in a closed envelope and label it with the rider's name, then drop it in the mailbox on the left side of the office door.

- Students with invoices that are not paid by the last day of the month will not be allowed to return to lessons until all invoices and late fees are made current.

Initial _____

Attendance

- Punctuality is required! Please let us know if you are going to be late. Classes are planned in advance for you; our dedicated team of volunteers and instructors will be waiting. So, if you're late, communicate! Call the barn at **770-672-5759**. We will wait for fifteen minutes past the scheduled ride time. Horses will be put away after this 15-minute period and will no longer be available so as to not disrupt the current active class. NO credit will be issued. If clients communicate or arrive less than 15 minutes late, the lesson will continue as scheduled, but will still end at the original set time.
- Absences must be reported in advance and will be considered eligible for make-up (by attending our monthly make-up clinic) as long as we receive 24-hour notice prior to the scheduled session. Exceptions to the attendance and fee rules can be made in unusual and extenuating circumstances per written request and review of circumstance by instructor and/or board of directors.
- Cancellations must be called into MT at 770-672-5759. Be sure to leave a voicemail. Email notification is not sufficient since MT email is not monitored on a 24/7 basis. Cancellations received less than 24 hours in advance are considered to be a NON-EXCUSED FORFEITED absence, and the cost for the session is still due.
- Extended Illness or surgery – An extended illness is considered to be an illness which is in excess of two weeks. MT must be notified of the participant's extended illness or surgery when the surgery is scheduled, or the illness begins. Credit towards make-up sessions will be provided when the participant is able to return. Refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis and must be submitted in written form for documentation.
- ☐ Any participant missing two lessons within the semester without prior notification (no call/no show) will be dropped from the program.

* Exceptions to the attendance and fee rules can be made in extenuating circumstances but is solely at the discretion of MT. Any client/family with such a situation can submit all pertinent requests in writing to MT.

Initial _____

Cancellations due to weather:

- Cancellation of classes due to weather is at the sole discretion of MT and is not determined by school closures. Participants will be notified by the instructor in the case of severe weather no earlier than two hours prior to the start time of the sessions for the day.
- In the case of rain, the participant will have the option of alternative activities on the ground to better horsemanship skills as well as benefit from therapeutic activities. In the event of rescheduled lessons due to weather, a monthly makeup clinic will be offered. Lessons will be rescheduled if the weather is below 30 degrees unless otherwise directed by the instructor, as our grounds will freeze. When taking the heat into account, typically we will add the humidity level

plus the temperature. If that number combined exceeds 170, then it is too hot for our horses to be working. The wind is also taken into consideration during lessons, as horses tend to get spooked more easily when it is windy. If there are wind gusts that exceed 15-20 MPH, then lessons will typically be rescheduled.

- All cancellations due to weather are subject to change by each instructor, depending on the conditions, the horse being used, and each individual rider. Under all of the weather conditions, your instructor will do their best to provide a ground session instead of a mounted session. Lessons will only be canceled when absolutely necessary, and a makeup clinic will be offered as an alternative.

Initial _____

Time to Shine Horse Show:

- Please mark your calendars if you wish to participate in our fall and/or Spring in-house horse show for enrolled riding students. We will send out the full registration and information mid-semester. You can ask your instructor or text/call our office number for the show date if you'd like to get it on your calendar sooner.
- In order to participate in the horse show, you must be committed to the full semester of lessons. We typically close registration by October for the fall show and March for the Spring show, so you need to know before you register that you wish to keep consistent weekly lessons through the next semester. Keeping consistent weekly lessons during the show semester greatly improves your student's confidence in their riding, and it also helps us work out the show details. Attendance is extremely important, particularly during show season, as we want all of our students to be as prepared and confident as possible.

Initial _____

The client must provide 30 days' written notice of intent/desire to take off more than two weeks from their contracted term for any reasons other than those outlined. During that 30-day period, the client is still responsible for all costs associated with scheduled lessons for the participant.

By signing below, I confirm that I have reviewed all of the rules provided for enrollment and accept full responsibility for adhering to them.

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____