C A M P

THINGS YOU NEED TO BRING: PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING, with your name, not just a piece of tape which may mean something to you, but not to anyone gathering up lost property at end of camp.

For your pony:

Hay / haylage and bedding – pref in / with dumpy bags to keep tidy and take away left overs at end of camp.

Hard feed – preferably bagged into individual ‘servings’ – ponies are fed twice a day. Please try to avoid bringing 3 bins of feed and mixing it at each feed time as feed storage space is limited. Any ponies not having hard feed, please bring token feed such as chopped carrots so they don’t feel left out.

Haynet, water & feed buckets

Spare bucket (for washing off pony, tack cleaning etc)

All tack and tack cleaning things

Headcollar and rope

Rugs if used

Grooming kit – including plaiting bands and sponge for washing pony off after exercise, but please do not include a large amount of things that you do not use or need

Mucking out things – fork, shovel, broom, muck skip or wheelbarrow if possible

Free standing saddle horse (or something to put tack on)

PLEASE CHECK that your ponies feet and shoes (if shod) are in good condition. It’s very disappointing for any member to have to sit days out because of lost shoes, and the organisers shouldn’t be having to try and sort it out for you.

For You:

Riding clothes – dress code for riding is basically as at rallies, except that jodphurs may be coloured – you therefore need: hat (approved standard, skull caps are needed for XC, if you don’t have one check with organisers if you will need one), PC sweatshirt / hoodie / rugby shirt, polo shirt/T shirts ( but no sleeveless tops allowed for riding) jodphurs , boots, gloves, body protector (standard BETA 2018 level 3 (blue & black label)

Other clothes for mucking out etc

Waterproof coat & wellies/muckers

Sun cream & hat if hot (you never know!)

Manual of Horsemanship if you have one, pen/pencil & notepad

Contribution of biscuits etc for break times. (to be handed over, not stashed in your tent!!)

SENIORS & ANY JUNIORS SLEEPING at camp also need:

Caravan / tent / trailer to sleep in (or arrange to share)

Camp bed / airbed (check it stays up beforehand rather than finding out when you get there that it doesn’t…)

Bedding, (Please make sure you have a warm sleeping bag or extra blankets as every year we have to make emergency phone calls home after 1st night when you discover its colder than you think …)

Nightwear

Washing things

Torch

Clothes for evenings (including things you don’t mind getting wet and/or mucky), swimming kit

Money - for tuck shop visits

Alarm clock!

This year we have a new venue, so things will be added to this info as we do more planning.

Anyone wishing to go to camp must have attended at least 3 events between Sept 2023 and the first day of camp, and at least one of these to be a mounted rally or training session with the pony coming to camp. If this is not possible (eg. Pony bought just before camp) you must arrange a lesson with Alison so we know pony is suitable.

No one is allowed to come into camp late, or leave early except in unavoidable circumstances.

All ponies must have valid flu certificates, and must have had a minimum of the first two primary injections at least a week before the first day of camp. (See our website for details of vaccination rule, for camp purposes a 12 monthly booster is OK)

Members are responsible for the care of their own ponies, and need to be capable of looking after them (mucking out, grooming etc) and tacking up with minimal help. All ponies are stabled throughout camp, there are no turnout facilities. All will be in ‘proper’ stables, not in pens.

Members ride twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. There is an outdoor arena, field space and XC course. You will do flatwork, jumping, and for younger ones, games, at some point through camp. There will also be horse & pony care instruction.

Breakfast, lunch and evening meals are provided by Gill Kidd & Gill Halton plus pre arranged helpers. If you have any food allergies and haven’t told us, let us know. The Gills work hard to provide a varied menu, but please will parents ask members to be prepared to try different things as they cannot start cooking specific things that someone has brought along because they “don’t like fish/chicken/mince ” etc. No one will be allowed to go hungry, and there will also be mid morning and afternoon snacks, and if you’re still hungry after all that there’s a tuck shop. Catering facilities are limited, and unfortunately we cannot provide for parents apart from those who the Gill’s have arranged to help.

There will be some evening activities arranged, but you will also have some free time.

Please be sensible about getting some sleep …. You won’t enjoy camp if you are exhausted. And even if you think you don’t need to sleep, remember others might (the organisers certainly do) and keep the noise down!

No generators are allowed – they are very noisy for anyone trying to sleep in a tent anywhere near them.

EVERYONE : You need to be ready to ride at 10.30am on the first day of your camp (NB that doesn’t mean just driving up the farm drive at 10.28 ) Plaiting is not necessary. You can arrive early & organise things before riding, or just get there & be ready to ride at 10.30 and parents can drop off things whilst you are riding, whichever suits you best. You may be able to take anything you want to take beforehand (eg caravan) to the farm on Wednesday evening from 6pm onwards. We will confirm this nearer the time. Juniors can also take things over at any time during senior camp. PLEASE NOTE there will be no one at camp on the eve of 3rd Aug.

When arriving at camp please park in field well away from gateway and tent area to unload. (This also applies when returning to collect your child) We realise this means carrying your things a bit further, but that’s just tough! Trailers may be left at camp if you wish, please check where to leave them and take care not to block other trailers or gateways.

The general rule is that anyone aged 10 or over is classed as a senior and does the 3 day camp, anyone under 10 is classed as a junior, and does 2 day camp. There may be one or two exceptions to this, which are decided by the organisers. For 3 day campers we would ask that parents drop them off, settle them in and then leave camp until coming to collect on the last afternoon. For 2 day campers, we ask parents to leave camp through the daytimes and return after tea. Anyone under 10 may camp or go home – please let us know in advance what you want to do. Any under 10s who are sleeping over must be accompanied by one of their parents. If this is a problem & you want to bring anyone else (eg other child) this must be arranged in advance. Those going home should be picked up at about 6pm (after tea) and dropped off again at 8am (before breakfast). Parents coming in to sleep over should be there no later than 9pm. If the timings are difficult for you please let us know (again in advance) and we will see how we can work round you. Anyone 10 or over who would prefer to go home at night should speak to us as this can also be arranged. Catering facilities are limited, and so we cannot provide meals for anyone other than members, instructors and designated helpers.

Without wanting to be rude or offend anyone, we have found in the past that the children are often more capable than the parents expect and are more willing to try new things / make new friends when parents aren’t around, and help each other out more when there are fewer adults present. Of course we will contact you immediately if there are any problems.

Parents please check notice board for info about pick up times etc before abandoning your child at beginning of camp. Please also check we have up to date contact details for you, especially correct mobile phone numbers and emergency contact numbers, and members medical consent form.

MOBILE PHONES are allowed, but at your own risk, and are not allowed to be carried whilst riding, or to be used during mealtimes or any organised activities. There will be NO charging facilities so will parents please not ask or expect their child to contact them every day or at a set time for an update of what’s happening – this has caused distress in the past when promised calls can’t be made. We will of course contact parents if necessary.

We advise that all electronic devices (such as ipads & tablets) are left at home.

STRICTLY NO ALCOHOL TO BE BROUGHT TO CAMP PLEASE. Any member ignoring this rule will be sent home. This includes parents staying over, and any members who are legally old enough to drink, as we have a lot of members who aren’t! We are relying on parents to back us on this please.

No DOGS allowed.

FINALLY REMEMBER TO BRING a sense of humour, large smile, willingness to do as you are asked and help each other out, & determination to enjoy yourself whatever the weather!