October 2022

**TopCrest Lessons and Level System**

**TopCrest Lessons**

TopCrest lesson membership will include one lesson per week in a group or half hour private at a cost of $200 per month (this amount includes 4 lessons per month), prepaid the 1st of each month. Late charges of $25.00 will apply for packages not paid by the first of the month. TopCrest will have four weeks throughout the year that are "off weeks" and there will be no lessons offered. The off weeks are Spring break (April 1-9th), Fourth of July week (July 1-9th), third week of October (October 7-15th) and the week of Christmas December 23-31st). Single lessons outside of a package will be $55 per lesson. Lessons will be scheduled through the Vagaro App. You can select an available time that works best for you and your schedule on a first-come, first-serve basis. Rescheduling and canceling can be done through the app as well. No refunds will be awarded for missed lessons. We do understand emergencies occur and riders become ill, but under normal circumstances, we ask you to make changes and cancelations prior to 24 hours before your lesson. A failure to do so or habitual no-shows will result in you being charged for the lesson and no make-up lesson will be permitted.

If riders do not own their own horse, the trainer selects the horse for each lesson. The horse is selected based on the rider’s ability, needs, and horse availability.

**Lesson Level System**

TopCrest Stables is dedicated to providing riders with an objective-based learning system to help them succeed in their riding career. The system ensures rider safety and provides clearly defined milestones, which we hope will inspire and motivate riders to continue to grow in their riding abilities.

**Levels 1-5**

* Level 1 lessons are conducted in a 30-minute private lesson setting. For their health and safety, horses will be tacked up and ready for the rider to ride. This provides the rider with more focused individual time to learn and grow.
* Levels 2-5 will be conducted in a small group setting of no more than 6-8 riders at a time.
* Horsemanship clinics may be scheduled throughout the year to teach riders how to handle, groom, and tack up their horses. These skills may also be taught within the lessons.
* Formalized level-up system. When the trainer(s) feel the rider is ready to advance to the next level, we will have “Level-up Evaluation Rides”. During these rides, the rider will be tested on the below tasks within their level along with those from previous levels.

**Level 1**

* Proper riding attire (helmet and paddock boots).
* Can mount on their own.
* Can steer on own.
* Halt.
* Figure 8 at walk.
* Can post the trot on and off the lunge line.
* Can perform a well-balanced sitting trot.
* Sit the trot without stirrups.
* Two-point at the walk and trot.
* Can change diagonals.
* Can put jumping boots on.
* Knows diagonals and changes them when incorrect without instruction.
* Figure 8 at the trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals.
* Trotting poles.
* Knows all the parts of the saddle.
* Knows all the parts of the bridle.
* Knows all the colors of the horses.
* Knows all markings on a horse.
* Basic knowledge of horse parts and breeds.

**Level 2**

* Can demonstrate a balanced canter on and off the lunge line.
* Can demonstrate a seated canter.
* Can demonstrate a two-point or half seat at the canter.
* Figure 8 at the canter.
* Knows how to properly ask for a lead.
* Can tell they are on the wrong lead and change to the correct lead without instruction.
* Can figure 8 at the canter with a simple change.
* Can perform simple changes and has a good understanding of changing their lead.
* Smooth transitions between gaits.
* Can post the trot without stirrups.
* Can canter without stirrups.
* Can jump a cross rail course maintaining control and proper form, and demonstrating correct leads.
* Can lesson in the field.
* Knows how to put a saddle on.
* Knows how to put jumping boots on.
* Knows how to untack a horse.
* Can figure 8 a bridle.
* Can clean off their horses’ bit.
* Can clean saddles, bridles, and girths.

**Level 3**

* No help waintaining control and demonstrating correct leads.
* Have a good understanding of distances.
* Demonstrate selecting a “good” distance.hen tacking.
* Know what creating a bend means.
* Knows how to perform transitions within the gait.
* Can perform a turn on the forehand or haunches.
* Knows how to ask for a lead over the fence.
* Can frame or package a horse up.
* Learning flying lead changes.
* Can perform leg yields.
* Can perform basic LEHS medal tests (found in the rule book - use link in blue)

[Lake Effects Horse Shows 2021 Rule Book and Show Schedule](http://www.meadowview-farm.com/files/LEHS%20Rule%20Book%202021%20(2.28.21).pdf)

* Can jump cross rails without stirrups.
* Can jump a 2’ to 2’3” course while m
* Demonstrate understanding of striding within a line.
* May jump the shorter cross-country jumps in the field.
* Must show good research on horses and horsemanship, including but not limited to:
* Resting heart rate
* Dental care
* Feed and Hay
* Farrier
* Wound care/basic vet

**Level 4**

* Can wrap a horse with no assistance.
* Can perform flying changes.
* Can demonstrate a counter canter.
* Can demonstrate shoulder in and shoulder out.
* Can perform more difficult LEHS medal tests (found in the rule book).
* Can jump 2’ without stirrups.
* Can jump 2’6” courses demonstrating consistency and free of major faults.
* Can perform a consistent equitation course, including rollbacks.
* Can demonstrate two changes of lead on the straightaway.
* Can demonstrate proper collection through all gaits and transitions.
* Understands and demonstrates proper riding techniques for under saddle vs. equitation.
* Can demonstrate control and form through combinations.
* Demonstrates great horsemanship and horse knowledge.
* Consistently placing in the 2’6” division of LEHS.

**Level 5**

* Can jump at least 2’6” without stirrups.
* Can jump full 3’ course.
* Can jump the taller cross-country jumps in the field.