

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

5500 Northrock Drive, Rockford, IL 61103 – (815) 877-6100 – www.wcfpd.org

**2012 SEASONAL EQUESTRIAN
PERMIT REGISTRATION**

Instructions: Equestrian must fill in form completely and return to the District where a bridle tag will be issued.

Equestrian will receive a copy of original form, a tag which must be visible when riding designated trails and/or area.

Subject to District EQUESTRIAN RULES REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS:

For Office Use, only:		TAG
<u>TYPE OF PERMIT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
Individual	No. _____	# _____
\$20 each	X \$20	# _____
		# _____
		# _____
		# _____
Roland Olson Arena	\$ _____	
\$20 a day		
TOTAL RECEIVED _____		BY _____

NAME(s) please print _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

is/are hereby authorized to ride horses on designated equestrian trails of the District for the year ending
December 31, 2012.

CONDITIONS:

- 1) In accepting this tag, equestrian assumes full responsibility for any and all injuries/damages caused by or resulting from the use of his/her horse on District lands.
- 2) Equestrians are restricted to only those trails or areas designated by the District for equestrian use.
- 3) The District Director may revoke this tag due to the improper or unsafe conduct of the equestrian.
- 4) Roland Olson, Sugar River, Deer Run, Oak Ridge, Rockford Rotary, and Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves all have designated horse trails or areas. Riding is prohibited in all other forest preserves.
- 5) **Registered equestrian must have visible tag on his/her person whenever riding on District property.**
- 6) Any equestrian allowing another equestrian to use his/her tag will forfeit his/her tag for the duration of the season. Tags are non-transferable.
- 7) Equestrian and/or sponsor certify that he/she has read and understands the EQUESTRIAN RULES, REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS and agrees to abide by them.
- 8) **Non refundable.**

Equestrian signature _____

DATE: _____

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
2012 EQUESTRIAN RULES, REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
POLICY STATEMENT

This Forest Preserve District Policy Statement is established to assure that no person shall be discriminated against because of his or her political or religious opinions, affiliations, race, sex, color, creed, national origin or physical disability. It establishes a set of uniform rules and regulations that will govern all equestrian use on Forest Preserve District property.

- A. No equestrian shall ride any horse on any driveway, roadway, path or trail within the forest preserves of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District unless such equestrian is appropriately permitted under the provisions of this Ordinance.
- B. The word "equestrian" as used herein is defined as any person having the physical control or who is responsible for the physical control, of a horse. The word "horse" as used herein is defined as any "horse or equine beast of burden".
- C. Equestrian bridle tags
1. Applications for equestrian use tags shall be made at the Forest Preserve District Office. Applications for tags shall be on forms furnished by the District and shall be accompanied by the required permit fee. Such applications shall state in full the name and address of the equestrian. Upon payment of tag fees, the Director or his designee shall issue to the equestrian a bridle tag. When using District equestrian facilities, each equestrian shall be equipped with a bridle tag. **Bridle tags must be prominently displayed.**
- D. 1. Equestrian use tags issued hereunder may be suspended on the trails by the Director or his designee, upon reasonable suspicion of violations of any of the provisions of these Equestrian Rules, Regulations, and Restrictions. Trail suspension shall be effected immediately according to the sound discretion of the Director or his designee and may be continued for a period not to exceed thirty days. Equestrian use tags issued hereunder may be revoked by the Director upon proof of violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance. Revocation may occur only after a hearing by the Director held after at least five days notice to the holder of the tag of the time and place of the hearing.
2. Equestrians shall:
 - (a) stay on designated trails only and stay to the right when passing oncoming users.
 - (b) slow to a walk on meeting other riders and hikers.
 - (c) be humane and kind to their horses.
 - (d) be courteous and considerate.
 - (e) clean up horse droppings on roadways.
 - (f) enter and exit forest preserves only at designated trail location.
 - (g) be considered to have the right-of-way on designated equestrian trails or areas.
 - (h) be responsible for seeing that such special controls as may be imposed by the Director or his designee (such as trail or area closings due to poor surface conditions, construction, etc.), are respected insofar as the use of their horses are concerned.
 3. It shall be unlawful within the forest preserves of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District for any equestrian:
 - (a) to treat a horse cruelly or knowingly permit such treatment.
 - (b) to ride or lead a horse that is vicious, unmanageable, or physically unfit for riding. Horses that may kick will be marked with a red ribbon on the horse's tail.
 - (c) to ride a horse that is not adequately and safely equipped for riding.

- (d) to ride a horse in such a manner as to injure or endanger the person, or property of any other person, or property of the Forest Preserve District.
- (e) to race horses except during authorized special events. Horses must always be kept under control and ridden at permitted gaits (walk, trot, or slow canter), except during authorized special events.
- (f) to park a horse trailer or truck for the purpose of loading or unloading horses in any parking area not designated and posted as an equestrian parking area.
- (g) to utilize equestrian facilities when posted closed to equestrian use or at other than normal hours of the preserves, i.e., open at 7:00 am and closed at one half hour after sunset. **Closed during deer shotgun season.**

E. Equestrian tags issued hereunder shall expire on the 31st day of December in the year for which tag was issued and are **non refundable**. Equestrians may ride if the trails are marked "Open" in the preserves in which equestrian use is authorized.

F. An Equestrian tag is not required for equestrians participating in an authorized "Special Event."

G. The District office shall keep a complete registry book of all tags issued hereunder.

H. 1. Equestrians shall use only such trails or areas within six forest preserves (Roland Olson, Sugar River, Oak Ridge, Deer Run, Rockford Rotary, and Seward Bluffs) as shall be designated and posted for equestrian use by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and in accordance with the Ordinances of the Forest Preserve District. Trailer parking is available at Roland Olson, Sugar River, Deer Run, Oak Ridge, Rotary, and Seward Bluffs.

2. Equestrian camping at Oak Ridge and Seward Bluffs only.

3. Groups of equestrians shall not be permitted unless the group has obtained a "Special Event" permit for Roland Olson arena.

4. Equestrian Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Restrictions approved by the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners shall become effective upon their adoption and posting.

I. The Director shall have the authority to declare and promulgate additional "Special Event" equestrian regulations in accordance with Ordinances and Resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District to address safety on the trails.

J. Horse-drawn wagons shall be allowed on any forest preserve paved road not marked "Closed" without being registered as an equestrian.

K. Equestrian campers are subject to the same rules that apply to other Winnebago County Forest Preserve District campgrounds.