



U.S. Pony Club Riding Center
United States Hunter Jumper Approved Riding Academy
26282 Oso Rd, San Juan Capistrano California 92675 USA
www.BridgesEquestrian.com * info@BridgesEquestrian.com * (949) 858-0970

Dear Horse Lover and those supporting them,

We're so glad you've chosen Bridges Equestrian for your riding and horsemanship lessons! Here are some things you might like to know about us:

WHAT TO WEAR:

- We do have helmets and boots (for most sizes) for your first few lessons. After your introductory lessons, we ask that you purchase your own helmet, boots and leggings.
- Long pants down to your shoes. No capris or shorts. Please no tacks or brads on your back pockets that could scratch the saddles.
- Shoes should be hard shoes so if it gets under a horse's foot your toes will be ok. We have plenty of toes of our own, we don't need yours.
- Shirts with sleeves, short or long is fine. Please no spaghetti straps or tank tops. Shirts need to be tucked in or long enough to cover your belt-line when you're bent over. We do have some great team shirts for sale for \$15 each.

WHERE TO GO: (we're only 2 minutes from the freeway off-ramp)

- 5 Fwy, get off on Junipero Serra, go West (a right if you were traveling southbound, a left if you were traveling northbound)
- The road dead-ends at Camino Capistrano, go left.
- The first signal is Oso Road, turn Right
- About a block up on your left is Sycamore Trails Stables. Turn in left at the white sign with the red tree on it that says "Sycamore Trails Stables"
- Straight ahead about 200 yards is a round planter with "SYCAMORE" in it. Drive straight back around that and past the brown building on your left. Then go straight back until you see the barn with "Mission" on the end of it (at the top, over the center aisle). We are all the way at the other end of that barn, #56.
- Call the number above if you're lost and we'll guide you in. (If you get to the Mission, or Avery Parkway, you're lost. Go back.)

WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR FIRST LESSON:

- Get you signed in (with the liability release and information)
- Get you all dressed out (boots, helmet, etc)
- Go to get your horse
- Tack and groom, and get to know each other
- Hop on and ride for 30 minutes.
- Dismount (carefully!) and groom your horse off (10 minutes)

Whew! That's a lot in a very short time!

We do ask:

- If there are any special health or learning issues or concerns, please bring them to the instructor's attention PRIOR to your lesson starting. It may influence the choice of horse for you. There are very few things we cannot deal with, but we don't want to disappoint anyone.
- Included with this note is a Liability Release. Horseback Riding is a sport and there is risk involved. Please read the release, fill it out, and bring with you first day. We have more if you forget.
- Sorry, no non-enrolled friends or family members near the horses. Spectators are welcome in our spectator area, or you can watch from your car next to the arena. Please no dogs. Please look over our barn rules and Sycamore Trails Stables rules.
- If you're going to be late, please call the director at the number above. If you're more than 10 minutes late, we cannot accommodate you or it will hold up the rest of the class. Please see the attached cancellation policy.

That's it! We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Horsefully yours,

Ruthanna Bridges
President & Riding School Director
BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN Inc





Who's Who and What's What

The Whos!

Ruthanna Bridges; Owner/Founder: Bridges Equestrian, Inc. Ruthanna is the Matriarch of the herd. With 40 years of instructing, 35 of that professionally, she built the program and now Directs administration of the Riding School. If you call or email, chances are that's who you are talking to! Ruthanna's mobile RV office often travels the country with her dog Jack. She might be talking to you from her computer in San Juan Capistrano, or from a petrified forest in New Mexico... you just never know! When home, she now and again steps back into the arena or pops down for a surprise "pony fix," or sit by the arena and watch her dream in action.



Ruthanna is also Chair of the National Center Committee for United States Pony Club, as well as a Director of the Orange County Horse Shows Association.

Devon Bridges grew up in the Industry, to become co-owner of Bridges Equestrian, Inc. with founder and mother Ruthanna Bridges (founded 1981). From an early age, Devon exhibited enormous talent as a rider, and his dynamic personality coupled with an innate understanding of horse and rider bio-mechanics made him a popular instructor and trainer for over a decade. Devon rode, trained, showed and imported Irish Sport Horses alongside his Mom in the family business through high school and college (2007).

Devon then spent the next two years in Europe, riding, training and showing (2010). While in Europe, Devon achieved many championships, including both Indoor and Outdoor titles in Uterecht, Netherlands, and built the network of contacts he would later use to import quality Western European horses. Upon return (2010), he earned a degree in Business, and took the reins once again of the Bridges Equestrian Show Team.



In 2015, Devon was offered the position of Trainer and Manager of a private start-up facility specializing in high end show jumping horses. Within a year, Devon would be showing and winning in both the Young Horse Arena and Grand Prix Arena, on horses he found, bought, trained and rode for the new enterprise, with over \$30,000 in winnings in just 6 months! But that wouldn't be the biggest win for Devon in 2015. His greatest win would be his marriage to Kendra Holthaus in August of 2015.

Kendra Holthaus-Bridges started her riding career in Las Vegas, Nevada, dominating the local show circuit as Champion or Reserve Champion every year of her young show career. It was during this time that she showed in So. Cal, where she would develop her love of the area. After a year at CSU (where she even participated on the Polo Team!) she realized her dream of showing and training was out there in the arena, not in the classroom, so she ventured out into the horse show world. She took positions as a working student, showing throughout the Midwest in Large Juniors and MaClay divisions. From there she would accept her first professional position in Wellington, Florida, showing and training, and eventually returning home to Las Vegas to establish the Las Vegas Riding Academy and Show Team.



Kendra took control of the Bridges Equestrian Riding School in 2012, bringing with her not only great talent, but amazing energy, grace, enthusiasm and a sincere love of kids and anything horses. She worked tirelessly to build and polish the Riding School, and quickly began to build a following of young riders herself. It was only a short time before she caught the eye, and subsequently the heart, of owner Devon.

Through Devon's tenure in the Grand Prix arena, Devon and Kendra would continue working together when they could, overseeing the Bridges Equestrian Riding Academy and building their Bridges Equestrian Show Team. Devon's position with the private facility meant weeks away showing, and they soon realized they wanted something more. In their hearts they wanted to build their future together not only personally, but professionally. In January of 2016, they took the already thriving Full training program of Bridges Equestrian, and formed Bridges Training Stable, Inc. In November of 2016, Devon left the show arena to come home and build that future as Bridges Training Stable alongside his soul-mate Kendra.



Allie Carpenter; Barn Manager/Instructor

Allie grew up in BRIDGES with Devon. Many years and a degree in Geology later, Allie manages the barn, and the Riding School. She is the Center Administrator of the Bridges Equestrian Pony Club Riding Center (our Pony Club) and the Regional Supervisor of the Southern California Region of the United States Pony Club. Allie does everything; she Manages the barn, runs Pony Club and Instructs as well. Allie's daughter Maddy now graces the arena as Bridges top student rider!

Lorriene "Lu" Schulze; Lead Instructor:

Lu has lived and taught from the East Coast to the West, bringing with her a vast experience in not just Eventing & Show Jumping, but Pony Club as well! Lu is in charge of the Riding School Instruction, as well as instructing most of the upper level classes. Lu also organizes and runs the Pony Club Meetings, and is Assistant Coach for the horse shows.

See our website at www.bridgesequestrian.com for updates on instructors and full bios of the horses and instructors!

The Whats!

The Riding School: This is where it all begins! This massive and all encompassing program "BRIDGES" (pun intended) the gap between horse and rider. We show you the magic, and give you the tools to make it happen. The Riding School includes the instructors, the horses, & the Pony Club. The Riding School offers lessons, camps, birthday parties, scout badges, Charter & Home School programs, in-house shows, that kind of thing.

Pony Club: (From Wikipedia) The United States Pony Club (USPC) has over 600 clubs or centers, and over 10,000 members in the United States. Many programs are offered, such as [eventing](#), [dressage](#), mounted games, horse management, Quiz (formerly known as Knowdown), [polocrosse](#), [show-jumping](#), [tetrathlon](#) polo, and [fox hunting](#). Also included are unmounted meetings where students are taught about the health and care of their horses, which include instructions on feeding, shoeing and veterinary care. More experienced Pony Club members help instruct and assist younger members. In fact, as a Pony Club member progresses through the certifications, teaching of fellow pony club members becomes a prerequisite for promotions. Pony Club has added an adult organization, the Horsemasters Program, for adult riders and volunteers. Horsemasters clubs serve as both a volunteer group to assist with Pony Club activities as well as its own adult horse riding club.

The word "Pony" in United States Pony Club does not refer to the type of horse allowed in the club, but instead, to the fact that their members were required to be younger than 21 upon the establishment of the club. Beginning from the year 2001, USPC raised the "graduation" age of members to 25 and also added programs on [western riding](#) and issues such as [land conservation](#). In 2015 USPC eliminated the age restriction, and now all riders can enjoy the programs USPC offers.

The Bridges Equestrian Pony Club Riding Center (BEPCRC) offers Un-mounted meetings the 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month, and Mounted Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Email the office for more information about joining this fantastic program.

Bridges Training Stable: This program is for the student with their own or lease a horse, and/or students seriously interested in competition. The Full Training Program offers horse training, showing and full horse care. Owned and operated by Kendra & Devon Bridges, this program is separate, but runs in conjunction with the Bridges Equestrian Riding Academy.



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Riding School Lesson Rates Effective 3/1/2017

Introductory Private Lessons: Available one time only per student.

1 Introductory Private Lesson	\$65
4 Introductory Private Lessons	\$225.00

Private Lessons: (instructed riding time is 30 minutes)

1 Private Lesson	\$75.00
4 Private Lessons	\$280.00

Group Lessons: (2-4 riders, depending on level – instructed riding time is 45 minutes)

Monthly Membership (4 lessons in the month)	\$250
Monthly Membership (8 lessons in the month)	\$440
4 Group Lessons (Drop in)	\$300

All lessons are a total of 1 hour, with riding and horse care.
We do not refund, however you may carry a credit for future lessons or camps.

Monthly Membership Perks:

- Regular reserved time slot will be carried forward month to month.
- Priority choice of lesson times
- Specialty classes such as the “competitive prep” classes with trainers Kendra & Devon Bridges
- Ultimate rider progress with a consistent class/instructor environment
- Discounts on programs and events (i.e. \$5 off per month on locker rental, (excluding summer camps), 10% - 50% off camps \$25 off horse shows)
- Memberships may be cancelled/suspended at any time, however all lessons including make up lessons must be used before the end of the membership or they expire.
- Relaxed cancellation policy (you can cancel GROUP lessons up till 30 minutes prior to lesson without penalty) Private lessons must be cancelled by 5:00 the night before, however if you call the office we will do our best to move the instructor around so that you will not need to be charged.
- Priority early sign-up for events
- Priority access to leases
- We'll be adding to this!

Conditions/Restrictions:

- No Refunds
- \$100 membership fee (waived the first time). Riders can drop out of the program at any time, however they will be required to pay the membership fee if returning. Memberships cannot be “suspended,” except in the case of an extended illness (more than 2 weeks) or injury.
- Memberships must be cancelled prior to the charge date, we do not refund.
- Cancelled lessons expire in 30 days. In the event of prolonged inclement weather (such as the winter of 2017) make up lessons may be extended.
- If a rider takes time off to go on vacation, providing the month is paid in advance, that rider may arrange to use those lessons in the month prior to or after their vacation.
- Lessons from May 1 through August 31 may be taken through Sept 30, providing the student remains continuously enrolled in the monthly membership program. If a student discontinues the Monthly Membership program, any unused make-up lessons are void.
- Account must be on AutoPay with a current form of Payment.

Private Lessons vs Group Lessons:

We are often asked which is better for a student, group or private lessons. This is largely a personal preference, however our students most often prefer the group lessons. Children in particular learn better in small groups. Learning comes from doing in horsemanship, so groups normally work better for the first few years. Also, much of riding is just *doing* it, and the groups allow for longer riding time.

Small children, such as our “Pony Pals,” and riders with special needs, may require private instruction due to safety concerns. Ask your instructor or call our office and speak to Ruthanna about what is best for your situation.

To Schedule a lesson:

1. Go to <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/ASP/home.asp?studioid=14525> **OR** go to www.BridgesEquestrian.com - Lessons - Schedule Online (on the right side of the page).
2. Select the lesson you would like.
3. Sign in (if you need log-in information, email the office at info@bridgesequestrian.com)
4. Pay if you need to, otherwise you will be all done!

**** REMEMBER lessons do not automatically schedule forward unless you are a monthly member. ****

Cancellation Policy:

In order to make this program work efficiently, we have to adjust our cancellation policy:

- Private Lessons: Must be cancelled *in writing by email* by 5:00pm the night before to receive credit.
- Group Lessons: Must be cancelled at least 6 hours before the lesson begins to receive credit.
- Monthly Members: Must be cancelled at least 30 minutes prior to class to receive credit.

**Please call if you are beyond the cancellation window. If we can reassign the lesson, you may not need to be charged.

Cancellations must be made either online, or by email to info@bridgesequestrian.com. You can also call, with a follow-up email within 24 hours.

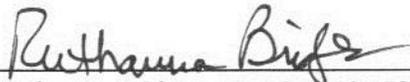
To Cancel a Lesson Online:

1. Go to <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/ASP/home.asp?studioid=14525> **OR** go to www.BridgesEquestrian.com - Lessons - Schedule Online (on the right side of the page).
2. Sign in
3. My Info
4. My Schedule
5. Find the lesson you wish to cancel and select "cancel" on the right.

We know first-hand how intimidating technology can be, but with just a little practice, this system is super convenient, keeps us organized, and allows us to plan for everyone's enjoyment. Feel free to call for assistance in scheduling/cancelling. Office hours are 8-5, 7 days a week.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, and for making BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN the huge success it has become! A full schedule is a wonderful problem to have, and this organization will allow us to accommodate all of our new friends!

Horsefully,



Ruthanna Bridges, BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN, Inc.

President & Riding School Director
Bridges Equestrian, Inc.



RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

READ THIS AGREEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING IT. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF AND AGREEMENT TO ITS TERMS. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU (AND YOUR CHILD) ARE GIVING UP CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO RECOVER DAMAGES IN CASE OF INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE TRAINERS, THE STABLE, ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, CLINICIANS AND AGENTS.

It is understood that BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN, Inc & Bridges Training Stable, Inc. (abbreviated in this document together as BEI) includes all trainers, instructors, assistants, agents, stable personnel or other students acting on behalf or in conjunction with BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN, Inc. & Bridges Training Stable, Inc. in the instruction of the undersigned student or authorized guardian of student.

I, (Your Name) _____ (and my Minor Child) _____ (hereinafter the "Undersigned) reside at

(Street Address) _____ in (City), _____ (State, Zip) _____.

(Home Phone) _____ Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____.

In consideration for allowing, me (or my minor child) to handle and ride a horse and on behalf of myself, my child, or our personal representatives, heirs, next-of-kin, spouses and assigns, THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY:

1. Acknowledge that a horse or mule may, without warning or any apparent cause, buck, stumble, fall, rear, bite, kick, run, buck, make unpredictable movements, spook, jump obstacles, step on a person's feet, push or shove a person, saddles or bridles may loosen or break - all of which may cause the rider to fall or be jolted resulting in serious injury or death to the undersigned or any person within close proximity of a horse.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HORSEBACK RIDING, THE HANDLING OF A HORSE, OR BEING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A HORSE IS AN INHERENTLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY AND INVOLVES RISKS THAT MAY CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY AND IN SOME CASES DEATH because of the unpredictable nature and irrational behavior of horses, regardless of their training or past performance.

3. Voluntarily assume the risk and danger of injury or death inherent in the handling or riding of the horse, or being in close proximity to a horse or on the premises of the stable, or the failure to wear a protective helmet when riding a horse, or the use of saddles, bridles, equipment and gear provided by BEI and/or its agents.

4. RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE BEI for any loss, damage, injury (including death) or cost to me or my child arising out of the handling or riding of a horse or being in close proximity to a horse or on the premises of the stable or the failure to wear a protective helmet when riding a horse, and use of saddles, bridles, equipment and gear provided by riding school.

5. Release BEI from any claim that BEI was negligent in connection with my or my child's riding a horse including but not limited to training or selecting horses, maintenance, care, fit or adjustment of saddles or bridles, instruction on riding skills or leading and supervising riders or the use of any equipment provided by the BEI or being on the premises of the stable, which resulted in loss, damages, injury or death.

6. INDEMNIFY, AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS BEI from and against any loss, liability, damage or cost they may incur arising out of or in any connected with either my or my child's handling or riding the horse or being in close proximity to a horse or on the premises of the stable or the failure to wear a protective helmet when riding a horse and/or and use of saddles, bridles, equipment and gear provided therewith from or contributed to by my or my child's own negligence.

7. Agree to abide by and follow any instructions given or rules established by BEI or any of its trainers, instructors, assistants, employees, agents, clinicians, guides or wranglers with regard to my or my child's riding or handling of the horse or being in close proximity to a horse or on the premises of the stable or the failure to wear a protective helmet when riding a horse or any saddles, bridles, equipment and gear provided herewith.

8. Agree that the Undersigned has read and understands the following language of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides "A general release does not extend to claims which the Creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release which, if known by him, must have materially affected his settlement with the Debtor." Having reviewed this provision, the Undersigned nevertheless voluntarily releases BEI from all liability for claims arising out of the matters set forth herein. The Undersigned understand the word "claims" to include all actions, claims and grievances, whether actual or potential, known or unknown, and specifically but nonexclusively, all claims arising out of the matters set forth herein. All claims are forever barred by this release without regard to whether those claims are based on the alleged breach of duty arising under contract or in tort or any other claims or cause of action.

9. The Undersigned expressly agrees that the foregoing release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement is governed by laws of the State of California and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by California law, and that in the event any portion of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable for any reason, the balance of the Agreement shall not be affected or impaired in any way and shall continue in full legal force and effect.

10. Acknowledge that this document is a contract and agree that if a lawsuit is filed against the Trainer(s), Instructors, Assistants, the Stable or its owners, agents, employees, clinicians, guides or wranglers for any injury or damage in breach of this contract, the Undersigned will pay all attorney's fees and costs incurred by the Stable in defending such an action.

11. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WEARING OF A PROTECTIVE HELMET IS REQUIRED, AND ONE HAS BEEN OFFERED FOR MY OWN OR MY CHILD'S SAFETY, OR PROVIDED BY MYSELF.

I have read this document, I understand it is a promise not to sue, and to release and indemnify the Trainer(s), the Stable, its owners, employees and agents for all claims. I have made a free and deliberate choice to sign the Release and Waiver as a condition to BEI allowing me or my child to ride or handle a horse. I have concluded that the risks involved and the Release and Waiver of Liability is worth the pleasure of horseback riding experience and acknowledges that the same is valuable consideration for this Release and Waiver of Liability.

Date: _____ Signature: _____ Print Name: _____



BARN RULES

"My Barn, My Rules"

- Follow the Sycamore Trails Stables Rules. (they have their reasons)
- All observers must stay in the observation area. (Yes, this includes parents)
- Children under the age of 8 must be within arm's reach of an attending adult at all times. (If we have to grab 'em, we get to keep 'em)
- While it is ok to leave a minor rider with us for their lesson, No friends or family under the age of 18 can stay to watch without an attending adult. (It makes us responsible. Our child-care service rate is \$75 an hour. Please make appointment)
- Do not feed the horses in the cross ties. (They get jealous and grabby)
- No visiting dogs in the tacking, observation or barn area. (It distracts the horses/riders and can cause issues with other dogs)
- Keep arms, legs and cameras out of the arena. (It can distract the riders and spook the horses)
- Please do not address the arena instructor or any of the riders except in an emergency. (The instructor will be happy to talk to you after the lesson, and your rider needs to look to us for their guidance)
- In the event you will be late for your lesson, call the BRIDGES number (949) 858-0970. We will get your horse out and put it in the cross ties. You will need to "catch up" to the class and may lose riding time. Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the start of class, will not be allowed to ride, even with a phone call. We apologize for this strict policy, however it is necessary for the consideration of the other students and the yard staff.
- BRIDGES riders and helpers (under the age of 18) are to stay in the BRIDGES area and not wander off. If you're here to help, then you need to be nearby. If you are here for a lesson, you must stay in the BRIDGES area until you are picked up. (there be dragons beyond that point!)
- No children under the age of 16 left after dark without an attending adult. Please inform the instructor before the lesson if ride will be late picking up. We will do our best to accommodate a late pick up, however if it is necessary to have an instructor stay over their shift to watch a child, the rate is \$75 per hour, or any part thereof, and will be charged to your card on file. (the barn may be "our life," but we do have other obligations! We're hungry and there is someone waiting for us at home!)
- **5 MILES PER HOUR or LESS!** PLEASE! Horses are easily spooked, and this is **CRITICAL** to the safety and sanity of both horses and students! **SLOW SLOW SLOW** then **SLOW DOWN!** No, really! **SLOW, CAREFUL!** There is a no-tolerance rule for the speeding thing, and we **WILL** get a howler from the front office with a description and license plate and you **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to drive into the stable ever again. (and that would really stink cuz we're all the way in the back!)

Sycamore Trails Stables Rules

(As they appear in the Sycamore Trails Boarding Agreement)

General Rules:

- a. Use of stable is limited to Boarders (and trainers), family members & guests ONLY.
- b. Boarder is responsible for conduct, liability and safety of guest at all times.
- c. Behave. No alcohol, narcotics, damage, destruction, abuse of animals or persons.

Facility Use Rules:

1. No trotting or running horses in the stable
2. No riding on the trails alone. Use buddy system.
3. No obscene language
4. Minor children must be kept under constant supervision of parent or guardian.
5. No riding double
6. No glass containers
7. Stall cleaning materials to be left in corner of stall, not in barn aisle.
8. No riding on halters. Use headstall with proper control devices.
9. No stallions on property.
10. Speed limit 5 mph. Park in designated parking areas only.
11. No smoking within 30 feet of barns

Arena Rules:

1. When entering the arena, make sure you are seen and wait for a break in traffic.
2. Horses or riders who are obviously inexperienced or are having difficulty deserve the right of way and lots of space. When you overtake someone from behind, pass them wide, about a horse length away, more if the horse is obviously upset by your move. When you meet someone head on, pass left hand to left hand, at a comfortable distance.
3. Do not stop on the rail for anything but schooling, and then only briefly. Faster traffic should pass to the inside track.
4. No jumping at any time without protective headgear (hard hat), shoes with heels and full tack.
5. Please do not sit, stand or climb on or near the arena rails.

These rules apply equally to Guests, Students and family.

THANK YOU!