

PLANNING YOUR PONY CLUB OR GROUP CAMP AT CHESTER FARM?

Listed here are a few ideas of what your group members will need to bring, and some creative activity ideas you could think about including in your camp itinerary. This is by no means a complete list but hopefully helps to get your fantastic summer camp here at the farm organised and help you to all have a great time!

Please let us know if you would like help implementing any ideas, want further suggestions that are suitable for your particular group or any other special requests.

For questions please contact Diana at Chester Farm – email is best: info@chesterfarm.co.nz

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE & IDEAS OF SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR YOUR GROUP TO BRING:

- ***Health & Safety Terms & Conditions form (please read carefully)***
- ***Map (how to get to Chester Farm)***
- YOU MUST WEAR YOUR HELMET AT ALL TIMES WHEN MOUNTED.
- NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED.
- Riding jods/breeches and safe riding boots are required for riding.
- Please ensure all saddlery and equipment is safe.
- A yard is provided for your horse to stay. The yards are not allocated. Please choose a yard and that yard will remain yours for the duration of camp. It is your responsibility to provide feed bins, water containers and ALL feed and hay for your horse. (Recommend labelling your bins)
- Your own tent & bedding or stay in your horse truck/float.
- Your own portable fold up chairs & a table if you have one.
- Baking to share at morning and afternoon teas.
- Your own meat/salad & buns to share at the BBQ dinners.
- Your own breakfast/cereals etc.
- Cooking utensils, pots, plates, cutlery and dishwashing liquid.
- Clothing and footwear for all types of weather just in case.
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, togs, towels, sunglasses, sunhats, camera, medications & toiletries, spare toilet paper!
- Group First Aid Kit. (Simple kit also onsite)
- Portable Whiteboard to use as your group noticeboard for daily timetable & important notes
- Balls and bats for games?
- Musical Instruments?
- Bicycles and helmets?
- Books and magazines to read in spare time.
- Rubbish sacks to take all rubbish home in.
- Device and camera chargers/batteries. (Note: there is very limited mobile reception at the campsite and surrounding valley area!) Emergency phonecalls or outside contact from your family etc can be made at our house 07 8624567 or with your mobile by finding reception driving back out the valley down Maratoto Road.

CAMPING FACILITIES AND AMENITIES AT CHESTER FARM

- **Hot Showers & Toilets Onsite** – Showers and a long-drop toilet located in the green sheds beside the arena. There will also be a Portloo in the campsite.
 - **Fridge, electric jug and power-points** also located in another green shed beside arena, with an **Emergency First Aid kit** located here too.
 - **BBQ** - A large communal gas BBQ is provided in the sheltered picnic area in the campsite. **NO OPEN FIRES** are allowed at any time.
 - **Fresh Water** suitable for drinking is available from all hoses and taps dotted around the campsite. Water can be boiled to be sure. Hose & Wash Bay for horses beside arena.
 - **1 Wheelbarrow and a fork/shovel** is provided onsite for cleaning yards.
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SOME IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR INCLUDING IN YOUR CAMP AND ITINERARY

We recommend making your group camp at Chester Farm a positive, fun experience for members of all ages and encourage everyone to enjoy the time away from home and devices etc, instead making the most of the chance to explore the outdoors, enjoy the natural surroundings and finding different opportunities for being creative to make it a very rewarding and memorable camp experience!

- **Meet & Greet / Farewell** - Make a time to all be onsite to meet for your group welcome and camp briefing. Recommend you have a short safety briefing going over your group/club rules, followed by advice on how to look after your horse/pony while on camp. At camp end please ensure the entire campsite/arena/derby etc is free of rubbish and all yards clean of all manure and hay before the last person has left. Any problems found or damage incurred please report it to us prior to leaving. Any pending payment also to have been discussed with us prior to departure.
- **Teams Within Group** - Encourage good team spirit within your group by dividing all riders into teams of different ages that help each other during camp to care for their horses and ponies together, look after each other and perhaps offer a prize for the most co-operative/tidy/caring/positive/best presented etc group at end of camp.
- **Group Arena Rides / Road Rides / Farm Rides / Derby Course rides**
- **Lessons with Greg or Diana**
- **Scheduled River Swimming Time** (on busy public days or especially weekends please respect all of our onsite notices re going in the river. We recommend timing any horse swims early or later, outside of popular public swimming times. People swimming anytime is fine!)
- **Shared Pot Luck Meals onsite**
- **Group Dinner at local “Pioneer Tavern” (the Hikutaia Pub)** (cheap and cheerful, has courtesy shuttle for pickup/drop off which can be arranged at prior request)
- **Fish & Chips or Burgers night** (plenty of local takeaway shops Thames or Paeroa)
- **Theory Times for going over PC certificate details**
- **Discussion Times** on different topics not often discussed to do with riding and horse care such as Confidence / Motivation / How to skills (eg plait a mane, walk a SJ course etc)
- **Costume Party** (could include horses as well as humans)

- **Creative Writing session** (poem or short story about camp experience)
- **Creative Drawing** – eg pony portraits / detailed leaf drawings etc. (Need pencils & paper.)
- **Story Telling / Ghost Stories at Night**
- **Sack Races / Bending Races** (with or without horses)
- **Bike Rides and Bush Walks** (great for non-riding camp members who want to explore the local area, eg to end of Maratoto Valley, Hauraki Rail Trail, Karangaheke Gorge etc)
- **Glow Worm Visit at Nearby Farm** (see Camp folder onsite for details on how to get there)
- **Bird / Animal / Native Tree Spotting** (see Camp folder onsite for what to look for!)
- **Group Camp Photo** (Diana can take this and any other photos on request – if available)
- **Group Skits / Singalongs**
- **Simple Evening Group Games... eg Who Am I?** Bring sticky post it notes, write a famous person's name and stick it on someone else's forehead. Everyone then takes turns guessing who they are, questions can only be answered with either Yes or No.
- **Night-time Disco** (bring an ipod and portable speaker and perhaps make a colour theme or similar for easy but silly dress up)
- **Musical Instruments** eg bring a Guitar if anyone plays for good old fashioned campsite fun
- **Cards Games / Simple Board Games**
- **Stargazing** – lie back in the grass and learn and spot different constellations
- **Human Band** – everyone use something found at camp, eg upside down bucket, tin with stones, beating two sticks together, empty cartons, clapping hands, whistling, human beat box noises etc and form a group jam session or teams to practise and perform their jazzy number to the rest of group.
- **River Rock Sculpture Competition** - (please hold something like this at the river bed somewhere so rocks are not carried anywhere onto our property!).
- **Pet Rock** - go find a nice small rock personal to you, draw a face on it or write a word or two on it in vivid/felt pen that means something to you (eg "I Love Life", "Be Positive", "Dream Big", "Happy Memories" etc and make it your wee camp memento to take home.
- **I'm Too Sexy For My Handmade Hat or Necklace** activity - made from natural materials found around camp and river areas, somehow woven together with twigs, leaves, vines etc
- **River Boat Race** (small boat made from natural materials, could start race from ford and finish at designated judges lines somewhere downstream).
- **Other Unmounted Games / Activities** such as :
 - Ball Games (bring them with you)
 - Apple Bobbing / Egg & Spoon race / Musical Chairs
 - Three-legged races
 - Twister
 - Horse-shoe Throwing or Gumboot Tossing (bring your own!)
 - I Spy
 - Treasure Hunt (hide some treats around campsite, enough for everyone to find at least 1 each)
 - Human Show Jumping or Derby Jumping, style prizes for best jump and canter etc!
 - Spotlight at night
 - Limbo
- **Etc etc etc!!** Come up with your own fun creative ideas and have a fantastic time!