# **Horse-riding Programme**

#### **Programme Overview**

- \* The basis of the homestay & excursion programme and the main key to its' success is that students do not reside in a school, residential centre or other group accommodation, instead they enjoy the all-encompassing experience of staying with an Irish host family.
- \* Staying with a host family is designed to allow students to learn English through total immersion in an English speaking environment. The focus of this programme is on the student participating in daily family life and activities while enjoying a minimum of 8 hours horse-riding a week

#### Matching to a host family

Families are carefully matched to students in terms of gender, age, interests and hobbies. For this programme each of our families share a common love and interest in horses.

Students will be placed with a family who have a child of the same gender and similar age (+/- 2 years)

Each and every family is carefully selected and approved. They are happy to welcome students into their home to share the daily life of their family.

#### **Horse - Riding Details**

The number of horses and facilities owned by or available to each family vary greatly. Our families range from those who own and run equestrian centres where each family member is involved, to those who own just two horses and only one host child rides. This range ensures that we have families to meet the needs of every student who comes on this programme irrespective of their riding experience. Please make aware of your riding level when booking.

#### **Daily Itinerary**

The focus of this programme is on the student being warmly welcomed to experience the life and activities of their host family. Every familys' day and routine is different from that of another. Horse riding is a key component of the day, with the student guaranteed at least 8 hours riding per week but often much more! The student is also expected to partake in the care of their allocated horse during their stay and become involved in yard duties etc.

## Will there be other students with the family?

Each student will be the only student of their nationality with the family. There may be a student of a different nationality also staying with the host family at the same time.

#### Will there be excursions?

There are no included excursions on this programme. Host families do tend to make some special outings with their students to show them the local area and if the family are going on a family day out the student is included. On a day to day basis family life continues as normal

#### **Stay Length**

Homestays with horse-ridng stays usually range from two to four weeks. Longer or shorter stays can also be accommodated.

#### Location

Families are located throughout Ireland

### Will students have their own room?

Students may have their own room, they may be sharing with a host child or they may be sharing with another student of a different nationality. As each family home is unique to each family, every one will be different. Specific requests can usually be accommodated.

#### **Essentials to bring**

- Riding Hat
- Body Protector
- Riding Boots
- Jodhpurs

#### Will Wifi be available?

99% of families have wifi in their homes but dependant on location it may sometimes be unavailable.