

Changes to Tuition and Calendar for Fall 2009

As previously announced, rates will increase by \$10.00 per session (lesson/class). We will also restructure our semesters from 3 per year to 5 semesters of 8 weeks each.

Fall A semester will begin on Saturday, August 15th and will go through Friday, October 9th. Unfortunately due to the Labor Day holiday and the SIRE Ride-a-Thon, Monday and Saturday clients will only have 7 weeks of riding in the Fall A semester, all other days will have 8 weeks. Fall B semester will have 8 weeks and will go from Monday, October 19 to Saturday, December 19th.

If a client chooses not to participate for one semester during the year, their time slot will be kept for them (it may be filled on a temporary basis with another client). However, if they are out for more than one semester, they will be placed on the waiting list at a high priority. The year is defined as August to July (school year calendar).

Here is the detailed information on tuition:

	<u>OLD RATE</u> per Session	<u>NEW RATE</u> per Session	<u>Fall A</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Fall B</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Total-</u> <u>both Fall</u> <u>semesters</u>
# weeks			8	8	
Service:					
Therapeutic Riding	<u>\$45</u>	<u>\$55</u>	<u>\$440</u>	<u>\$440</u>	<u>\$880</u>
Therapeutic Riding with billing	<u>\$52</u>	<u>\$62</u>	<u>\$496</u>	<u>\$496</u>	<u>\$992</u>
Hippotherapy					
60 minutes	<u>\$84</u>	<u>\$94</u>	<u>\$752</u>	<u>\$752</u>	<u>\$1,504</u>
30 minutes	<u>\$54</u>	<u>\$64</u>	<u>\$512</u>	<u>\$512</u>	<u>\$1,024</u>

For reference, here is the letter that was sent on June 1st to active clients:

June 1, 2009

Dear Client,

SIRE's mission is, **“To improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding and related activities”**. In keeping with SIRE's mission, I am writing to you personally to inform you of changes that will be made at SIRE, effective this fall.

The worldwide recession has affected virtually everyone and unfortunately, SIRE is no exception. Earlier this year, in immediate response to the recession, everyone on the staff took a 10% reduction in salary so we could continue providing services. Expenses were reduced or eliminated with the exception of expenses needed to maintain safety and continue to deliver the highest quality therapeutic riding services. However, due to the drastic decline in donations from all sources (foundation grants, corporate and most importantly, individual donations) since last November, the options before us are heartbreaking. One is to cut services by reducing ridership at all three locations thereby reducing instructors and staff; the other is to increase rates.

Historically, SIRE clients are only charged 25% of the total cost with the other 75% donated from the community. Therefore, after painful review of the options and in keeping with SIRE's Mission, your Board of Directors has decided rates will increase by \$10.00 per session. We will also restructure our semesters from 3 per year to 5 semesters of 8 weeks each. As part of the restructuring, our fall semester will begin in mid-August. Detailed information on the fees and the schedule will be placed on SIRE's website by June 15th. If you do not have access to the website, please contact the SIRE office after June 15th and we will mail the information to you.

As part of our SIRE family, I sincerely hope you understand this difficult decision during these difficult times.

With Kindest Regards,

Richard White; President
Board of Directors