



Scholarship Program

Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center is dedicated to making our service available to all who can benefit from therapeutic riding. Through donations, Giant Steps is able to offer financial assistance to families and individuals who qualify and who could not otherwise afford the program tuition. This assistance is provided in the form of adjusted fees to those who demonstrate need.

It is important to emphasize that scholarship funds are limited. Scholarship requests are reviewed strictly on household income and number of dependents so as to be fair. It is our goal to assist as many children and adults with disabilities as possible who need our services and not have anyone turned away due to finances.

The actual cost per lesson per rider is approximately \$150, but we charge only \$65. We actively fundraise throughout the year to underwrite the cost of our programming so that we can charge less than half of the actual cost. Scholarships are based solely upon financial need, and though our policy is that no rider be turned away for lack of funds, we expect your request for a scholarship to be genuine and proven quantitatively and fairly by the inclusion of your previous year's tax return.

Process:

A Scholarship Application Form must be completed including tax-returns or supporting documentation of financial need. All information is kept confidential. Your completed application will be reviewed, and you will be contacted if we have any questions. Please keep a copy of the following scholarship policies for your records.

Scholarship Policies

[Please initial next to each policy]

_____ Scholarship recipients and/or their parents or care providers are asked to help raise a minimum of \$500 per year for Giant Steps.

OR

_____ Scholarship recipients and/or their parents or care providers are asked to volunteer to help contribute towards the program needs. Here is a list of ways you can help:

- ❖ Volunteer a minimum of one hour per week during a session. Parents/care providers are welcome to volunteer during their child's lesson.
- ❖ Volunteer for an event.
- ❖ Volunteer in the office.
- ❖ If these options aren't possible for you, please call Julie Larson at 707-781-9455 to discuss other ways to help.

AND

_____ Our schedule is at maximum capacity and we have a waitlist for students wishing to ride at Giant Steps. To ensure that everyone gets the most out of their therapeutic riding lessons

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we will be strictly enforcing an attendance policy for scholarship riders. Any scholarship rider who misses more than 30% of the lessons in any one term will forfeit their scholarship. The only exception to this rule will be a doctor excused extended absence.

_____ A scholarship rider who misses a lesson and does not call ahead to cancel will be charged a \$10 "No Show" fee.

| If you have any questions about the scholarship application or process, please contact the business manager at 707-769-8900.

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Scholarship Application

This application is for scholarship assistance at Giant Steps. If you think a scholarship is required, it is important that applications be completed on time and that the most current tax return is included at the time of the application. The information will be kept confidential.

Completion of an application is required annually.

Rider's Name: _____

Parents/Guardian (if applicable): Father: _____

Mother: _____

Please list all pertinent information:

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail Addresses: _____

Home Address, City, Zip Code: _____

Occupation(s): _____

Employer(s): _____

What is your total annual net household income? _____

You must attach a copy of your most recent tax-return and, if applicable, a copy of your SSI check.

Is SSI your only source of income? Y ___ N ___

Has there been any change in status since you filed your tax return? Y ___ N ___

If yes, please explain: _____

Please list dependent children: _____

Please list any medical expenses that you have that are not covered by your health insurance:

I certify that all of the information provided in this document is true and correct.

Name: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Appendix: Sample Scholarship Levels

To determine your qualification for a scholarship, we will locate your income according to the number of dependents in the chart below and follow the column down to the corresponding Rider Tuition and Scholarship amount. For example, a family with 2 dependents with an income of approximately \$50,000 would receive a 60% scholarship.

2019 HUD TABLE

Number of Household Dependents	Household Income (30% AMI)	Household Income (50% AMI)	Household Income (60% AMI)	Household Income (80% AMI)	Household Income (100% AMI)
1	22,700	37,800	45,360	60,500	65,300
2	25,950	43,200	51,840	69,150	74,650
3	29,200	48,600	58,320	77,800	83,950
4	32,400	54,000	64,800	86,400	93,300
5	35,000	58,350	70,020	93,350	100,750

This median income schedule is based on the FY 2019 median household Income for Sonoma County as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Household income is adjusted for family size in accordance with HUD standard adjustment factors.