

**Specialty Riding  
Camp at HVC**



FREEDOM, MAINE 04941

# HIDDEN VALLEY CAMP

A Summer Arts and Outdoors Community for Children Ages 8-14

Hello Families,

Thanks for your interest in [HVC's specialty riding program, Brumby](#). Details below will help prepare your child for the possibility of joining the group in the summer upcoming, as Brumby life involves riding, of course, and being a member of the barn crew as well. Information on the camp's Web site looks at the entirety of this exciting program in more detail.

## **Riding skills:**

Walk, trot, posted trot, sitting trot, knows diagonals and has started work on a forward canter. ("Forward canter" means the rider's canter, not the horse's. Children should be in control of the canter, ask for it from the horse and the horse be willing to maintain it around the ring.) Any trainer can help your camper work on all of these skills throughout the year.

We ride English, so familiarity with this form is crucial. Think about these basics: Work on your seat to achieve proper posture, heels down, hands down, work with your legs to aid and communicate with the horse.

Trail rides, some jumping and vaulting are also part of a full HVC riding experience.

## **Barn skills:**

You should be comfortable performing these tasks:

- Lift a saddle
- Tighten a girth
- Lift a hoof and pick out manure
- Check tack
- Put a bit inside the horse's mouth and have knowledge of the buckles and flash of the bridle.
- Groom a horse; know all the brushes, order in which you use the brushes, etc.

### **Other essentials for Brumby success...**

Desire to learn  
Patience  
Willingness to work hard  
Independence  
Absolute horse craziness!

Note: HVC staff feed horses and take on the more difficult chores associated with barn and horse life. Children primarily do grooming and tacking with lighter work in the barn that is noted above.

## **Additional Program Info:**

Look for details at the Website and please note that Brumby campers are involved in all other aspects of camp life, taking classes in the arts, sports, aquatics, all special programs, etc.

## **Leadership:**

Four quite experienced counselors and HVC's riding director (Equine Science degree, showing 4th level dressage, etc.) look after all aspects of the program. We also work closely with an Equine Vet who teaches the group about horse care and anatomy.

**Please call or email us with any questions!**

Peter and Meg Kassen, Directors • 207-342-5177 • 800-922-6737  
summer@hiddenvalleycamp.com • www.hiddenvalleycamp.com