



United Neigh Program Outline

The Program:

United Neigh is an innovative program created for at-risk youth ages 12-18, led by adults and college interns, to teach its members basic horse care, horse rehabilitation, riding skills and personal accountability with the goal of decreasing the high school drop-out rate. The National Education Association's *Twelve Point Plan for Reducing the School Dropout Rate* pinpoints "community-based, real-world learning experiences for students" and involvement in small after school groups as a key factor in increasing the rate of high school graduation. The farm's unique program utilizes equine facilitated learning to provide just such an experience for youth in the City of Lynchburg and surrounding counties. Tutors are available each day to help the youth with subjects they may be struggling with at school. ***Our primary focus is not riding and showing.*** There are limited openings in the United Neigh program. This program is open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

What does being a member mean?

- A member is required to spend two (2) designated days a week working with horses, following a rehabilitation program designed by the vet, trainer, and the Executive Director.
- Youth participants must remain in good academic standing to participate in the riding portion of the program.
- Each Youth participant will join the Brook Hill 4-H Horse and Pony Club, the farm pays for this membership.
- Optional: When the participant is deemed ready by their instructor, they will be invited to join the United States Pony Club at the farm. Participants are responsible for the Pony Club dues and related costs.
- Members of United Neigh are presented with a monthly pledge. This expense is tax deductible. A limited number of scholarships are available based on need.
- Each member is required to help with service projects. For participants under 18, a parent is expected to volunteer when needed.
- A certified instructor is present at all sessions. Clinics and other riding opportunities are available at an additional cost.
- All members must follow the rules set forth by Brook Hill Farm. If a member chooses to leave the program of their own accord, they must give Brook Hill Farm 30 day notice. During this time they are still responsible financially to the farm.

Procedure for Youth to Join United Neigh:

1. The farm is contacted by an interested party
2. An initial farm visit/interview is scheduled
3. At that meeting a release and waiver is signed
4. A United Neigh Application packet is given to the prospective participant
5. 3 follow-up visits are scheduled on the program days where there is an opening. The youth will shadow a current participant to get a feel for the flow of the program and to see if they are a good fit. They do not ride a horse at this time.
6. The staff will meet to evaluate the youth for potential acceptance, following an evaluation checklist.
7. The youth may be put on a waiting list if no available position is open

Or

The youth is accepted into the program. They will submit their

- a. Release and Waiver (completed at initial visit to the farm)
 - b. United Neigh Application
 - c. A Program Agreement
 - d. Health History Participant Information sheet
 - e. 4-H Youth Enrollment Forms
8. An Individual Horse Program is made for each participant by the staff.
 9. The youth begins their participation in the program.



Brook Hill Farm United Neigh Application Packet

UNITED NEIGH APPLICATION FORM

Applicant

Name: _____

DOB: _____ Age _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Gender _____

Address: _____

Resident: County _____ City _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Address if different from above: _____

Referral Source: _____

Phone: _____

How did you hear about the program: _____

Please explain why you think United Neigh would benefit you or your child.

HORSE EXPERIENCE:

Years/Months Riding: _____

Trainers Used: _____

References: 1). _____

2). _____

Any other horse information/activities:

What other talents can you or your child contribute to the program?

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To be filled out by staff:

- Release and Waiver
- UN Application
- A Program Agreement
- Health History Participant Information sheet
- IHP Plan completed by staff
- 4H Youth Enrollment Forms

Staff Signoff: _____ Date: _____