

## Lettleiki Levels

Lettleiki Levels is a badge program that is offered in conjunction with our lesson program. It is open to all students of any age and experience level. Currently we have developed seven levels, each individual level has a specific set of skills to master that allows for graduation into the next. Skills are a mix of practical and riding skills, and also include some written and oral knowledge. The goal of this program is to provide a more structured path of progress for our students. While participation is not mandatory for all students, it is very highly recommended. All new students will receive an evaluation to be placed in the appropriate starting level during their first lesson. We have included a brief description of each of the levels. Many of the levels are permissive of some milestones that many students wish to reach, such as going on both walking and working trail rides, and showing. While these milestones fit well into the levels, the final decision on these matters is always at the discretion of the instructor. Safety is our highest priority, and there are many factors that go into making these situations safe.

### Level One

Level 1 introduces the basics of horse tacking with the help of an instructor. This is the introduction to catching, tacking, and the basics of riding. It teaches the routine of the lesson itself, along with the riding basics and horse care pre and post ride. The riding skills focus on learning to control the horse at the walk as well as traveling faster on the lunge.

### Level Two

Level 2 continues practicing the basics of horse care and preparing the horse to ride, starting to introduce more independence. At the end of this level, students should need minimal help with tacking, and should know all of their riding warmup. The riding skills of this level introduce patterns and tolt, and focus on perfecting the skills of the previous level.

### Level Three

Level 3 focuses on creating an independent rider. Riders at this level are expected to independently know and perform all the same basic skills as the previous levels, but with no assistance, this includes the catching of the horse, grooming, and tacking. The riding skills in this level introduce traveling at speeds faster than a walk independently. At the completion of this level, students will be expected to arrive with enough time ahead of their lessons to prepare their horse on their own.

### Level Four

Level 4 focuses on fine tuning the riding skills from the previous levels, introducing independent trot with different types of seat. A large milestone is the introduction to the outside track where the student will be required to walk independently. Beginning at level four, riders will be allowed to join their instructor on walking trail rides without being led.

### Level Five

Level 5 continues to work on developing a strong independent seat in walk, tolt, and trot, and it introduces emergency dismount at different gaits. Dressage tests are introduced as well as a tolt program to begin working towards showing. Canter is introduced on the lunge line at this level, and students at this level are expected to independently ride at a walk, trot, and tolt on the track.

#### Level Six

Level 6 focuses on building on the skills mastered in the previous levels. It introduces canter independently in the arena, introduces figures in trot and tolt, and begins to develop the start of collection and extension. Riders at this level practice a three gait program, and the next level of dressage tests.

#### Level 7

Level 7 begins focusing on teaching the rider to ride with appropriate connection to their horse and begins to fine tune all the previous work. Level 7 students are able to ride all of the dressage tests, and demonstrate basic dressage movements such as leg yields, and are beginning to work with speed changes in tolt. This level includes learning to canter on the oval track as well as a four gait program. Riders who pass this level may be permitted to join their instructor on a working trail ride.

Level 8 - 10 Coming Soon