

ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14 | JANUARY 2019

Grant

This fall a St. Croix Trail Blazers' volunteer introduced us to the Sally and John Morley Family Fund which is part of the Cleveland Foundation. We were invited to apply for a grant and are pleased to announce that we received that grant! Horses will be well fed, dressed warm this winter with new blankets, left alone by flies and other biting insects this summer with new fly sheets, and have color coded reins (for every horse) to make hand placement easier for our riders. We will also have fans

to circulate air in the barn, additional scholarships (information regarding these will be coming at a later date), a round pen to train horses, and a horse trailer. By graciously awarding us these funds, we have been relieved of some delayed wants and needs.

Thank you to the Morley family and the Cleveland Foundation! We couldn't be more grateful!

Dime Wars

We are in the midst of Dime Wars! Thanks to Crystal Shaddrick, she's been helping us with some fundraising ideas.

A large box of empty bottles was placed in the lounge and from **January 5th to February 23rd**, team members will collect as many dimes as they can in their bottles by asking friends and family for their dimes to help them win. Participants can start turning in their bottles after February 23rd and winners will be announced shortly after.



Prizes and half hour private lessons with Kellie will be awarded to the top three collectors! Thank you to Barb Conway for collecting the prizes for us!

We hope everyone gets involved. Fundraisers help with necessary expenses and keep rider fees down.

We are in the process of purchasing Rowdy and Billy - two horses so many of our riders love. Help us make them a permanent part of our team!

MISSION

Trail Blazers mission is to provide horseback riding, training, and competitive sports opportunities to individuals with special needs in a safe learning environment through adaptive equine experience.

In This Issue

Grantpage 1
Dime Wars.....page 1
Rider Spotlights.....page 2
Payment Policypage 3
St. Croix Trail Blazers' Clothing.....page 3
Cold Weather Cancellation Policy ..page 4

Make-Up Reminder.....page 4
Christmas.....page 5
New Email Addresses.....page 6
\$50 Off Riding Feepage 6
Reminder.....page 6

Rider in the Spotlight: Camilo

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Camilo: I am not sure but I think about five years. I started with riding two stables ago.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Camilo: Shooter is my horse. We really understand each other. He's my favorite.

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Camilo: Shooter is my favorite. He only laid down once and I had to jump off. He hasn't done that since.

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Camilo: I like Shooter and the people I meet at the stable. I like going with my girlfriend.

SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Camilo: My hobbies are mainly participating in Special Olympics and dancing at Curio Dance. I watch YouTube videos of dance moves.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Camilo: Alpine skiing, basketball, swimming, track and field, and bowling.

SCTB: Anything you want to add?

Camilo: I really like the group of people I ride with. It's all about friendships.



Rider in the Spotlight: Hannah

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Hannah: I've been riding with the St. Croix Trail Blazers since it began in 2010.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Hannah: I love to ride and my favorite horse is Vanna who I always ride.

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Hannah: My favorite horse is Vanna.

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Hannah: I really like the coaches and they really help me a lot. I like how they help

me ride well and help me to be independent when I ride. I like all the friends I see at riding, too.

SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Hannah: When I'm not at work I like to listen to music and work on some dance moves. I really like playing on my phone and iPad too. I have a lot of fun hanging out with my boyfriend, Camilo. We do a lot of fun things together.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Hannah: I love to do a lot of different sports with Special Olympics including track and field, basketball, downhill skiing, golf, bowling, and swimming. I also love dancing at Curio Dance.



Payment Policy

The 2019 payment dates are listed on the right. **Payment is due the first Saturday of the month and is non-refundable.**

This ensures our commitment to you and your commitment to the instructors, volunteers, and horses. Fees cover costs such as leases, veterinary, feed, equipment, transportation, insurance, heat, electricity, etc. *St. Croix Trail Blazers is unable to do third party billing.*

There is a payment box in the lounge. If you need a receipt, please email Keri at keri@stcroixtrailblazers.org and she will gladly take care of it for you.

IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR PAYMENT BY THE 15TH, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A \$15 LATE FEE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Payments can also be mailed to:
St. Croix Trail Blazers
6659 Jasmine Court North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Payment dates for 2019 are:

- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

If you're unable to make the payment due to financial hardship, please talk to Keri so payment arrangements can be made or scholarship information can be given to you.

Rate	Cost Per Lesson
\$46	\$46 (1 lesson/month)
\$92	\$46 (2 lessons/month = 24 lessons)
\$184	\$42.46 (1 lesson/week = 52 lessons)
\$258.75	\$29.86 (2 lessons/week = 104 lessons)
\$40	One-half hour private lesson

St. Croix Trail Blazers' Clothing

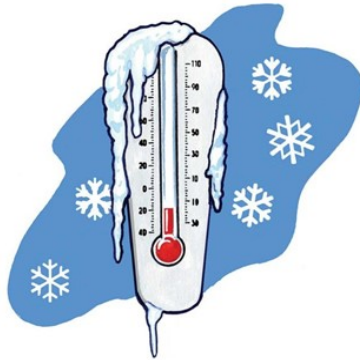


Check out the new St. Croix Trail Blazers' clothing! T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and jackets are available. Use this link to connect directly to the store:

<https://stcroixtrailblazers2018.itemorder.com>

Cold Weather Cancellation Reminder

Even though we don't have as much snow as we usually do, we're still dealing with the cold temperatures. **When the temperature is 0° or below, for the safety of our riders, staff, and horses, our normal policy is that sessions will be cancelled.** Cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page and telephone calls will also be made to inform those scheduled for sessions. We will make every effort to make contact with you. *Discretion will be used to cancel sessions if the temperature is above 0° but the wind chill is below 0°.* Not only is the cold weather tough on humans, it can also be tough on our horse partners.



To minimize dust in the indoor arena, the footing gets dampened. The unfortunate part of that in the winter is that the footing can freeze and can feel like concrete under a horse's hooves. Footing that gets clumped or solid can twist joints and bruise feet. It's best for the footing to have "give" to it.

Cold air can also worsen respiratory issues. Some studies have shown that frigid air – in the single digits – can lead to minor inflammation of the lungs. A few of our horses have breathing issues and riding them in cold weather can exacerbate the situation. Proper warm-up takes longer in cold weather to prepare tendons, ligaments, and cartilage for the work ahead. Warming up heats crucial structures by increasing the blood flow. A horse with arthritis will take longer to warm up also because they will feel stiffer in the cold air. Those of us with arthritis know that feeling!

Remember to wear appropriate clothing. The barn is heated, however, it can still be cold. Gloves, not mittens or really bulky-type ski gloves, are best for holding onto the reins. Beanie hats work well under helmets to cover ears.

As always, if you have any questions, please ask.

Make-Up Reminder



If St. Croix Trail Blazers cancels your lesson, you will have a make-up lesson. **You have 30 days to schedule that lesson with Kellie.** Please do so by email so there is a written record: kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org.

Thanks!

Christmas

On a wintry night in December, many St. Croix Trail Blazer riders, their parents, and staff gathered at the Lake Elmo Inn Banquet Center for a Christmas party. Festive decorations, white table clothes, and a banquet table loaded with food greeted arrivals. There was lots of chatter and laughter as everyone chose a seat at large circular tables and proceeded to fill plates with food.

Following dinner, a DJ arrived. Many of the St. Croix Trail Blazers' riders displayed their talent as dancers. Parents and staff

joined in the frolicking on the dance floor. All dancing stopped when a special guest in a red suit and sporting a white beard arrived. Santa had time for everyone to sit next to him for a Christmas chat and to receive a gift.

After more dancing and chatting, the party-goers slowly left the venue, out into the crisp, cold air. It was reported that there were murmurs of, "I can't wait for the party again next year!"

Sylvia Grubb



New Email Addresses

We've updated our email!

You can reach these people now at separate emails:

Karen: karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Kellie: kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Keri (treasurer):

keri@stcroixtrailblazers.org



Please remember to check your spam or junk folder for any updates from St. Croix Trail Blazers.



If you bring a new rider who joins the team, we'll give you \$50 off your next month's fee!

Rider must pass evaluation with instructor.



Special People Needing Special Horses

Contact Us



Email: karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Website: www.stcroixtrailblazers.org

Facebook: [St. Croix Trail Blazers](https://www.facebook.com/St.CroixTrailBlazers)

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St. Croix Trail Blazers is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service.

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