

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE PROFESSIONAL'S COURSE AT NSAE.

These are various ideas from the program that we'd like you to consider and respond to. Your response will be in writing. What we're looking for is not brilliant expository skill, or even the ability to spell—rather we're looking for the way your mind works, and the way you engage in the questions. We also want to make sure you understand something of the program before you get started.

1- **For work study people: this is a rigorous, demanding, challenging year of hard work.**

You must come prepared to muck stalls, build fence lines, work in the pouring rain, break ice in paddock waters in freezing weather, lift heavy bales of hay and ride and eventually work with multiple horses daily.

- a. Are you physically capable of doing hard work?
- b. If you are concerned about any aspect of your physical ability, what concerns you and why?
- c. Do you have any disability, injury or physical problem that might interfere with doing a long hard day's work in typical stable jobs?
- d. You must make a real, personally binding commitment to be here for one full year if you will come on as a work study person. Do not make this commitment lightly. Can you genuinely promise to stay for, at minimum, one full year?

2- **You will be responsible for your own education.** We will offer both riding lessons and class room lessons. You'll study theory and critical thinking and you'll be presented with ways to deepen the creative understanding that it takes to be a brilliant professional. We will coach you in business skills and suggest materials to study. However, it will be up to you to do the work. You are preparing for a career in this field. Part of what it takes to be an outstanding professional is drive. If you need someone to insure that you hand in your work, show up for your lessons, and do your stable work honestly, you can count on it that not only will you be let go here, but that you will fail as a professional. If something is not working for you it is your job to correct it. Talk to the appropriate people and make it better for yourself.

- a. Do you have the drive to make this a brilliant year for yourself, regardless of physical difficulties, relationship issues, homesickness and anything else the year tosses your way?
- b. You, yourself, are the authority figure that you relate to daily—if you tend to rebel, you and your inner authority suffer accordingly. Mary Anne and Craig will be expecting you to act as a professional, which means recognizing your instructors as your mentors, and being responsible in a way that doesn't waste

time either resisting or brown-nosing the authority figures around you. What is your relationship like with your parents? What was your relationship like with your past teachers, your past bosses, and authority figures generally?

- c. You're here to get from the program every last drop that we can give-- can you do that?

3- **This is a course for a person who is emotionally well balanced.** Working with horses means working with danger, high energy, and occasionally with a high level of emotion, both equine and human. It will bring out your deepest fears, inhibitions, anger, joy, and grief. You may get yelled at if what you're doing is unsafe. You may be a shoulder for someone else to cry on. At times we guarantee that you'll feel humiliated, you'll feel frustrated, and you'll feel stuck. Working with the horses at this level WILL precipitate emotional catharsis. We are not mental health professionals. You must be emotionally stable to take this on.

- a. Are you emotionally healthy and well balanced?
- b. Your work here will stretch you to your limits emotionally. You *will* confront whatever stops you in your life. Are you prepared for that?
- c. Will you take responsibility for your own reactions to your learning process: to the horses, to the clients, to your fellow students, and to the staff?

4- **At some point in the year you will be ready to begin practicing teaching.** Your students at first will be fellow professionals course students (if there are others here), and then will be our clients. You will eventually be responsible for running classes and for teaching people of all ages and riding levels. Study the theory, understand the method. You're going to be teaching it to learn it more deeply. The lessons you teach will put money back into the coffers of the business. It pretty much balances out that if you study for twelve months and teach for at least six of those months we will have come close to breaking even on the amount we'll invest in you. You may teach more, you may teach less. You are taking advantage of Craig's 45 plus years of study and professional work to start a long term career, we are taking advantage of one year of your work, and only part of that actually brings in any money.

- a. Do you have any reservations about teaching for NSAE without monetary compensation?
- b. Can you accept that you're ready to teach when Craig says it's time?
- c. Do you agree to be on time, responsible, and professional in your teaching?

- 5- **You will be instructed to post to an on line list daily, and to journal privately.** Students who don't do these things have always failed the program. Students who did do these things tended to thrive. We will not often respond to the posts (even if you ask a question we'll be more likely to respond in person), but we will read them daily. Your journal is your own. If you would like to ask for feedback on what you're learning, you're welcome to share it with us.
- a. Can you make a commitment to journal privately and, once you're shown how, to post something to the list daily?
- 6- **When you are at the barn you will be expected to act professionally.** This means cleaning up after yourself, not leaving clothing or tack or coffee cups around the barn, dressing appropriately (we're not into the stuffy stable attire, but we do expect that you'll dress for barn work. We do not want to see tee shirts with slogans, dangling jewelry or provocative dress here.) You will be expected to learn and observe good safety protocols at all times. You should expect that if you are doing something unsafe, or if someone else is in trouble, you may well get yelled at—quick action doesn't permit for politely phrased requests. If this troubles you, don't come.
- a. Are you able to accept and learn from criticism?
 - b. Are you able to adopt your behavior to reflect the standards of the barn you're working in—accepting the ways we may do less than you are used to as well as raising your standards in areas we expect more?
- 7- **Tell us a little about yourself.** Work related: what was your best job, and why? Or your best instructor, and why? Tell us what you've studied in the past about equitation, and why you think this would be a good experience for you.

Please consider these questions and write out your responses for us, and mail or email them to us with your personal information below.

You will not be considered for the program until you have completed an intensive.

Personal Information and understanding of commitment

Name: _____

Address at home: _____

Address while staying here, if known:

Telephone at home _____ Cell phone _____

Best day time phone _____

email address _____

Intensive dates preferred _____

Date that you would like to begin study _____

I understand that no dogs and no smoking, alcohol, or mind altering drugs are allowed on the grounds at any time. I understand that if I am under the influence of any mind altering drug—even a cold medicine—I may not come to the barn. I understand that if it becomes evident that I have a substance abuse problem I will be expelled.

_____ *sign here to indicate you understand this.*

Check all that apply.

- I understand that NSAE may remove me from the program if they feel I am not fitting in with the school.
- I hope to bring _____ horses (\$550 per month in board per horse.)
- I am interested in the work study program- one full year commitment required.
- I am interested in the paid program- \$1,000 per month, no annual commitment.
- I would like some help finding housing in the area

_____ I do have my own car _____ I do not have my own car

Mail this completed form and your responses to the application questions back to us at:

NSAE
11901 215th Place SE
Snohomish, Washington 98296
or email to mac@classical-equitation.com