

**Purpose:**

The Potomac Hunt Foxchasing School offers the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge needed to participate in the traditional sport of foxchasing. The program encompasses the sport's traditions, riding skills, safety, etiquette, and respect for land and the environment. After completing the program, the "graduate" has the option to participate in foxchasing with The Potomac Hunt in one of the three mounted fields:

- First Field: Follows the Huntsman and hounds, crossing natural obstacles and jumps at speeds necessary to keep up with the pace of the hounds
- Second Field: Follows the Huntsman and hounds, but does not jump larger obstacles (may jump small logs on the trail) and will navigate difficult country at a more moderate pace
- Third Field: Follows the activities from further back and at a slower pace. The group will take a different route if necessary to avoid obstacles that pose too much of a challenge for horse and/or rider. This field does not jump.

**Activities:**

Opportunity for at least 4 ~ 1 hour trail rides with a PH member. Pace determined by the level of the participants. Structured to get horses out in typical foxchasing territory, negotiate the types of ditches, creeks, brush and other obstacles that could be encountered in the hunt field, while in a small group. To include trail rides at the Hunt Club to introduce the horse to the noise of the hounds.

- Two opportunities for trail rides with hounds from our kennels. Consisting of a 30-45 minute walking ride to acclimate horse and rider to hounds.
- Invitation to participate in all PH sponsored trail rides
- Three social/instructional seminars at the Hunt Club to cover hounds, horses, etiquette, attire and hunting
- Four opportunities to walk out (on foot) with the huntsman and hounds with a hunt member
- Opportunity to participate in PH social functions at member prices. Note: Potomac Hunt social activities are dependent on COVID-19 restrictions.
- Opportunity to participate in Potomac Hunt hunter pace with a Potomac Hunt mentor/teammate
- Foxchasing School discount at The Surrey
- Discount lesson program at participating lesson barns
- Opportunity to participate in foxchasing with the Potomac Hunt three times in September and three times during the remainder of the season.
- All fees paid to the Foxchasing School Program can be applied toward membership if one chooses to apply for membership
- All activities will be in compliance with Montgomery County COVID-19 requirements

**Experience and Requirements:**

- Must have riding skills at walk, trot and canter
- Rider and horse must be comfortable at walk/trot on trail rides
- Rider and horse must be capable of some cantering on trail rides
- Horse must be appropriate for riding in groups

- No jumping experience necessary; however, jumping opportunities will be provided
- English tack and safety helmet
- Access to trailering (we will do what we can to help you out but cannot guarantee trailering options)

#### **To Learn:**

- Foxchasing activities and seasons
- Foxchasing practical tips, etiquette, attire and traditions
- Respect for the landowner
- Riding in groups
- Foxchasing vocabulary
- Standing at a check in groups
- Field reverses
- Handling trail hazards
- Acclimation to hounds
- Crossing streams and ditches
- Navigating trappy terrain
- Off-trail riding
- Exposure to bikes and cars
- Exposure to hounds

#### **Pricing**

- Adult: \$1200—may be paid in two installments.
  - Due April 1 – \$800. Participate in all activities through August 31. If at the end of this portion, foxchasing is not a good fit for you or your horse, there are no additional fees.
  - Due August 15 – \$400 if you wish to proceed with the foxchasing portion. This allows you to participate as a guest in three meets in September and three more meets before the end of the calendar year.
  - All fees will apply towards a hunting membership if the participant chooses to apply for full membership.
- Children: \$500
  - Due April 1; including foxchasing portion
  - Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult