Dear Horseback Riding Enthusiast, *(updated Feb 2021)*

Thank you for your interest in horseback riding at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park in Fort Pierce. We hope you also experience our nearly 40 miles of equestrian trails located throughout St. Lucie County—all free to the public. In this packet you will find forms along with a copy of the Rules and Regulations for weekly permit holders. Please keep a copy of the Rules and Regulations for reference.

After completing the forms, make a copy for your records and mail the originals along with payment to the St. Lucie County at **2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982** for processing in 7-10 business days. Once you receive your permit and combination lock code, you are permitted to ride. Or you can come in to the office, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm to submit your paperwork and payment to receive your permit and combination lock code on the same day.

All weekly permit holders are REQUIRED to call (772.462.1521) at least 24 hours in advance to schedule their ride. Permit holders must call 48 hours in advance if riding on a Saturday or Sunday. Be prepared to provide your name, trailer license plate number, the date and time you would like to ride and the exact number of horses that you will be bringing to the beach.

**FEES:**

Non-St. Lucie County Residents:
The fee for the weekly permit is $100. The first permit issued is good for two horses. Each additional weekly permit is $50 per horse. Limit 3 permits (4 horses) per person.

Payment should be a check or money order payable to St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners.

**REGISTRATION CHECKLIST:**
**(If you are purchasing by mail, please be sure all the forms below are signed and mailed to us)**

□ Application
□ Rules and Regulations Acknowledgement Form
□ Waiver Indemnity Agreement
□ Copy of Driver's License
□ Check or money order made out to St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
□ Copy of a negative Coggins test for all horses that will be ridden under this permit

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 772.462.1521. Hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

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# St. Lucie County
# Horseback Riding on the Beach Permit Application
# WEEKLY
# (non County)

**Permit Number: HBR** _____ - _____ (office use only)

**Date of Issue**_____ (office use only) **Expiration Date**_____ (office use only)

**Name**_____**DOB**_____

**Address**_____

**City/State/Zip**_____

**Phone Number** (_____)_____ **Email** _____

**Horse Trailer License Plate Number** _____

Location of the proposed activity: **Fredrick Douglass Memorial Park** (South Hutchinson Island), **3600 South Ocean Drive, Ft. Pierce, Florida**

**This permit is issued under the provision of the St. Lucie County Land Development Code, Section 6.04.02.D. The above name permittee is hereby authorized to conduct the activity shown on the applications specifically described as follows:**

**To:**
**Participate in horseback riding expedition(s).**

**Subject To:**
**Specific Conditions one (1) through three (4)**
**General Conditions one (1) through ten (13)**

**I hereby certify that all information submitted is true and complete.**

**Issued this** _____**day of**_____**, 202**__

**St. Lucie County (office use only)**

_____ _____

**Signature of Applicant** **Office Approval (office use only)**

**ONCE A SIGNED COPY OF YOUR PERMIT IS RECEIVED, PLEASE CALL 772.462.1521 TO SCHEDULE YOUR RIDE.**

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# St. Lucie County Horseback Riding on the Beach at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park

## Rules & Regulations

## WEEKLY PERMIT HOLDER

The St. Lucie County Tourism Office and the Parks & Recreation Department are responsible for managing and monitoring horseback riding on the beach at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park in St. Lucie County. If you have any questions on the following rules and regulations, please call 772.462.1521 or 800.344.8443.

**Cost:**

- A weekly riding permit is $100 for non-St. Lucie County residents for up to two (2) horses. Each additional weekly permit is $50 per horse. Limit 3 permits (4 horses) per person.

**Terms of Permit:**

- The first weekly permit issued is good for two horses. Each additional annual permit issued is for one horse. Limit 3 permits (4 horses) per person.
- Weekly permit holders are permitted to ride their horse an unlimited number of times during the dates of their permit. Weekly permit holders must call the 772.462.1521 **at least 24 hours** in advance to schedule their riding reservation. If riding on a Saturday or Sunday, weekly permit holders must call **48 hours** in advance to schedule their ride. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm. Closed on holidays.
- Permit holders can only ride their horses after sunrise and before sunset on their scheduled day(s).
- Permit holders are NOT permitted to accept money or charge participants to ride horses on their permit.
- When a ride is scheduled through the office, permit holders are required to be present and keep the permit form on hand during the entire period of the permitted activity. Permit cannot transfer from one person to another.
- Persons must be at least 18 years of age to purchase a permit(s).

**Permit and Combination Lock Code:**

- All weekly permit holders will be given a copy of their permit that shows the permit number and expiration date. All weekly permit holders are requested to place this document in the inside windshield of their vehicle during the permitted activity.
- All weekly permit holders will be given a combination lock code that will provide access to the designated vehicle and horse trailer parking for permit holders only. Please be sure to lock the gate when entering

and leaving. All permit holders are required to park in the designated horseback riding parking area when participating in the horseback riding activity.

**Riding Horses on the Beach:**

- All horses must be equipped with a manure catch bag and/or riders must clean up manure deposited by their horse(s) on the beach, on the paths leading to the beach and in the parking area after each ride. Manure is not to be discarded into the ocean, in County trash receptacles, etc. All manure is to be removed from the park's premises by the permit holder.
- Pursuant to Section 773.06 Florida Statutes a child who is younger than 16 years of age must wear a helmet that meets the current applicable standards of the American Society of Testing and Materials for headgear used in horseback riding and is properly fitted and fastened securely upon the child's head by a strap.
- All riding is limited to the area south of the designated beach access.
- Riders are to follow the beach access trail from the parking lot down to the water's edge; from there, riders ride south up to a distance of approximately one mile until they reach the end-of-trail marker that indicates the turnaround point.
- Horseback riding is limited to the water's edge and NEVER ON THE DUNE. Riders are only to ride on the wet hard packed sand surface in and near the waterline. Horses are permitted to ride in the water.
- All riders are strictly forbidden to ride on the vegetated dunes so as not to disturb the dune plants and endangered species of sea turtles that nest on the beach.
- Riders are to respect the sunbathers, swimmers and others by maintaining clearance when riding.
- Riders are to observe and obey all signage instructions and conditions along the beach, in the parking area and along the beach access.
- Under Florida Law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.
- Permit holders must have documentation of a negative Coggins test for all horses.

## VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY RESULT IN REVOCATION OF YOUR PERMIT WITHOUT REFUND.

**HORSEBACK RIDING ON THE BEACH**
**RULES AND REGULATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

The Rules and Regulations have been prepared for your information and understanding. Please read it carefully and completely. Upon completion, please sign the statement below and return it to the 2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida 34982 along with the other items on your return checklist. A copy of this acknowledgement will be kept in your file.

I, _____, have received and read a copy of St. Lucie County's Rules and Regulations pertaining to Horseback Riding on the Beach at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park.

I understand my responsibilities as a permit holder and have familiarized myself with the Rules and Regulations. By my signature below, I acknowledge, understand, accept and agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations pertaining to Horseback Riding on the Beach at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park.

I understand that violation of any of these rules and regulations may result in revocation of my permit(s) without refund.

_____
Permit Applicant's Signature

_____
Date

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**ST. LUCIE COUNTY RELEASE FROM LIABILITY IN CASE OF INJURY OR LOSS, WAIVER INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

I understand that horseback riding and related activities are very dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death, and/or property damage, including injury and/or death to horses, spectators and others. Accordingly, I agree that any activity engaged in by me, pursuant to the permit issued by St. Lucie County ("the County"), is done at my own risk.

Accordingly, I release and agree to hold harmless the County along with its Board of Commissioners, employees, and any and all persons or entities who are guarantors or indemnitors of the above, all agents, employees, other horse riders, horse owners (hereinafter called Releasees) from all liability for negligence or otherwise.

I assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, illness, death of myself, my invitees and/or my horse(s) and any property damage due to the negligence of Releasees or otherwise while on property owned, maintained or operated by the County along with its Board of Commissioners and employees or heavily engaged in horseback riding-related activities, and/or while riding, observing, volunteering, teaching, working for, or for any purpose relating to horseback riding or participating as rider or spectator in such activities.

I agree not to sue any Releasees, and I release and agree to indemnity for the Releasees from and for all liability for the undersigned, his/her person, representatives, assignees, invitees, heirs, and demands therefore on account of any injury to my person or property, or death of undersigned whether caused by the negligence of the Releasee or otherwise.

I understand that Federal and State law prohibits injury or damage to sea turtles and sea turtle nests. I agree to be responsible for all damage, including but not limited to sea turtles and sea turtle nests, by me, my animals, my invitees or anyone utilizing property owned, maintained or operated by the County pursuant to my permit.

I agree to be liable to the County for all reasonable attorney fees and other costs resulting from my breach of any conditions of my permit.

I agree that this release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of this state where these activities are conducted, and if any part hereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue of full force and effect.

I have read and voluntarily signed the release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement and further agree that no oral representations, statements or inducements apart from the foregoing written agreements have been made nor shall be made except by a written and signed addendum.

***WARNING: Under Florida law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.***

**I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE RELEASE AND UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ITS CONTENTS.**

Print Name(s) Clearly: _____

Signed (must be 18 years age):

_____

Date of Signature: _____