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## Boy's wish comes true: A horse ride

### Special saddle makes it happen

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The Make-A-Wish Foundation often grants sick children their wishes for a Disney World vacation, a meeting with a celebrity athlete or a trip to exotic locations.

The Curry family of Cape Coral had what seems like an easy wish. They wanted their 5-year-old son Noah to ride a horse, his favorite animal.

But Noah has a form of epilepsy encephalitis, which thwarts his physical development and causes seizures. He can't mount a horse and trot around an equestrian arena.

"Noah lights up when he is around horses," mother Crystal Curry said.

Through Make-A-Wish, though, Noah got his first taste of horseback riding Saturday, thanks to a saddle made especially for his small body.

Family and friends celebrated Noah's first ride with a horse-themed party, complete with a horse-shaped balloon and cake at Special Equestrian Inc. in North Fort Myers.

Grays Custom Saddlery and Western Store, located in Horseshoe Bend, Ark., designs saddles specifically for individuals with disabilities, so that physical limitations can't stand in the way of a good time. A Foundation representative found the business through a Google search.

Make-A-Wish began working on Noah's case in July, but the family's wish couldn't be granted instantly.

"The saddle is made out of a tree trunk, and they had to wait for the right tree," Make-A-Wish fairy Donna



[Stephen Hayford/news-press.com](#)

Noah Curry, 5, of Cape Coral, sits in his new custom saddle Saturday with the help of his father Kyle Curry, 30, and Special Equestrians Inc. volunteer Freda Jones, 44, during a presentation from the Make-A-Wish Foundation in North Fort Myers. The foundation granted Noah, who has a chronic seizure disorder, a custom saddle for family horseback rides and a year of riding lessons at Special Equestrians.

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Hendershot said.

Noah's custom-made saddle fits like a standard saddle over the horse's back, but it has a padded seat with a back rest and belt to keep him secure.

He wasn't about to fall off Saturday, not on a tame brown horse nicknamed Lazy Daisy.

Kyle Curry said his son can't verbally communicate, but his nonverbal cues make it fairly easy to decipher how he's feeling.

That's how they realized his love for horses. His expressions change when he sees, touches or smells the animals.

"It's therapeutic for him. Something about the horse stimulates him," Crystal Curry said.

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