# Heavens Hoofprints: Horsemanship Program

**Proposed Event Date and Time**: Sunday afternoons. Call for available days.

**Event Capacity:** We can accommodate 8-24 kids for one session and our session's are 2.5 hours long.

**To large groups**: If you have more than 24 kids that are participating, then we will divide the group up into 2 sessions.

**Participation:** We do allow all kids to participate, including siblings. All participants must be five years and older. We do ask that any kids that come to the ranch need to participate in the full event. Therefore they have to have a release form signed and the participation fee paid. We are very sorry for any inconvenience, but it is no fun for a sibling to come and watch. We want it to be a great day for parents to watch and kids to participate. This is great for all kids because they love to participate!

**Cost: $75/ participant: 8-12 participants**

**$65/ participant: 13-24 participant**

**I**ncludes everything that is provided in the event.

Program includes a 2 ½ hour interactive session, a personalized name badge, all four stations listed below, and Girl Scouts earn their Horsemanship patch. **Group events are paid by venmo, zelle, cash or troop check on the day of the event.** Thank you.

**How to make the day of the event run smooth**: It is best if the leaders can collect the funds and release forms before the day of the event and have them in an file folder for us or email us. We will need a list of all participants e-mailed to us 30 days before the event.

**Participation Requirements**: 1) Every rider must be at least 5 years old.

2) Every participant must have a signed "Release Of Liability" form signed before coming to the ranch. This can be printed from the file attached. We like to have all the forms filled out and ready before the event starts so we can use your event time to have fun with the horses!

3) All participants must follow the rules of the ranch or they will be asked to leave. This is for everyone's safety. The rules are simple and will be gone over at the beginning of the session.

4) All riders must wear a ASTM certified riding helmet to groom and ride a horse. WE ask that you please have each participant bring their bicycle helmet this allows for the students to have a helmet that fits correctly and we dont have to take time fitting helmets before riding.

5) All participants need to wear long pants and a closed toe shoe. (i.e. boots or tennis shoes)

**The Event Stations: This is where all the fun happens!**

What we do is set up 4 stations that are 30 minutes long each, with 5 minutes in between to walk to next station. I will have an employee at each station to lead the kids through that station. There will be 3-6 kids to each station and every station is hands on for the kids. I would ask that you bring 1 parent to every 4 kids. If more want to come, that is fine. The stations include:

**Station 1: Horse Husbandry**: All the kids will learn what it takes to care for a horse. They will all get to rake a little horse poop, fill water buckets, and feed the horses hay and carrots. Our staff leader will also talk to them about the type of hay the horses eat and the importance of caring for the horse's home.

**Station 2: Horse Grooming and Saddling**: The kids will learn how to groom. They will get to learn how to properly groom (brush) and saddle a horse.

**Station 3: Archery:** Participants will learn the proper technique and safety in shooting a bow and arrow at a hay bale target. Lots of fun for everyone. Bows are sized for children and very easy to handle. Arrows are blunt tipped.

**Station 4: Horseback Riding:** We will have 3-6 kids ride at a time in an enclosed arena for 30 minutes. Each child will get a basic lesson on riding a horse and we will play some fun horse games. The riding lesson will include how to mount, dismount, and the kids will get to ride at a walk and trot (if they feel comfortable).

At the end of the event, we will come together and ask the kids a few questions about what they learned and then handout each participant's horsemanship patch (girl scouts).

As a staff, we all really enjoy watching the kids have fun with the horses and seeing them interact with them. It is great to allow them to enjoy the outdoors and learn about an animal that gives so much to us humans. Horses teach us patience, respect, and love. They give us an experience of enjoyment that every horse enthusiast holds on to for a lifetime!

We look forward to you joining us at the ranch!

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