

About the Horse Program

Description of Program:

Victory Ranch Inc. offers an innovative **About the Horse Program**, that is experienced in a relaxed environment at a rural ranch. Participants meet in the ranch classroom for eight, one and a half hour sessions at the ranch. Sessions are twice a week (either Monday or Wednesday after school) and Saturday morning. There are a total of eight sessions at the ranch for four weeks.

Note: *The About the Horse Program was formerly referred to as the Kids & Horses Education Program*

About the Program:

Goal: To provide an educational and therapeutic experience that focuses on interacting with horses.

Disadvantaged children participate in a positive program that includes a communicative relationship with their horse partner. Each student builds confidence and self-esteem so that they leave empowered with self-awareness and renewed hope in their life journey. These children include kids in foster care/adopted, abused relationships or recovery, or children undergoing challenges like a life-threatening illness or cancer, and high-functioning Autism.

Overview: The program is an experiential learning experience that starts off with teaching and preparing each student for riding the horse they will be assigned to. Western-style riding is used.

These are the major areas taught in the program:

- Fundamentals of the horse including anatomy, temperaments, breeds, dispositions, safety considerations, eating habits, horse vitals, what they eat, and how they see
- Safely handling your horse (helmets mandatory)
- Horse communication, behavior, and how they think
- Prey vs. Predator
- Grooming and maintaining your horse (includes stall cleaning)
- Safely leading the horse
- Tack and its use/maintenance
- Saddling up your horse
- Basic riding – arena work at a walk (with safety leader leading)



Note: The curriculum used in the program/teaching was co-developed by a graduate student (Stanford School of Education) and Doug Hutten (Founder and Executive Director of Victory Ranch Inc.)

Participants: The program is offered free for various groups. Sign-Up Forms are available.

- Youth - Age range 8-16
- Young adults – Age range 17-24

Participant Goals:

The program is designed so each participant can achieve certain goals in their sessions.

These goals include:

- Team skills
- Sense of personal achievement
- Bonding with their horse through communication
- Learning a special language of a giving animal
- A general, positive change in their outlook of life
- An appreciation of the horse as a species
- Improved healthy communication
- A renewed sense of self confidence

Horse connection/interaction experience – designed for participants to get closer to the horse during each visit:

- Tub carrot feeding – greeting the horse for the first time
- Grooming the horse (helmets mandatory)
- Leading the horse – participants lead a horse – supervised by a qualified volunteer (helmets mandatory)
- Riding the horse – participants ride a horse – supervised by a qualified volunteer (helmets mandatory)

Program Time Commitment:

- Sessions are one and a half hour, and divided into the classroom portion – using a (30 minutes) and the horse connection (60 minutes)
- Meet twice a week for four weeks (8 Sessions total)
- Divided into two groups – Group A and Group B
- Typically have Group A meet on Monday after school and return for second session on Saturday mornings (9:00 AM to 10:30 AM)
- Typically have Group B meet on Wednesday after school and return for second session on Saturday mornings (10:30 AM to Noon)

Fees/Charges: There are No Fees or **No Charges** for the About the Horse Program. It is FREE to participants. This is a commute-style program. Participants will need to be driven to/from the ranch for each session. Carpools and company vans are encouraged. Drivers will need to stay until the sessions are finished, and are welcomed to observe.



VICTORY RANCH, INC.

15190 N Red Rock Road, Reno, NV 89508



Phone/VM: (775)432-8320 Website: www.victoryranchinc.org Email: doug@victoryranchinc.org