

Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center

March 2015 Newsletter

From Mukwonago, WI

- Lessons Offered, Group and Private
- EAGALA sessions/EAP/EAL
- Website Updates
- Girl Scout Visit
- Program Horses, returning and new addition
- Addition of farm animals
- Indoor Riding Arena
- Volunteers Needed - Orientation
- Supporters

The 2015 Willow Creek Ranch therapeutic riding program will begin in April and continue through October, and possibly into December! We are located at 7404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago, Wisconsin. We will provide lessons in a private (1:1) lesson, group lessons, and EAGALA sessions.

Lessons Offered

Private lessons will be offered Monday through Friday, in the morning, afternoon, or evening. These 45-minute therapeutic lessons will teach a client horsemanship skills including: Horse Sense, Rules and Reasons, horse care, grooming, tacking, leading, exercises, clipping, bathing, and basic riding skills while working with a PATH International instructor and one volunteer. The client will be able to work with the instructor to gain horse knowledge and training, build self-confidence and trust, and excel in their independent riding ability.

Private Lessons are offered:

Monday 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 6:30pm

Tuesday 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Wednesday 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Thursday 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 6:30pm

Friday 9am, 10am, 11am

Group Lessons will be offered on Tuesday evenings, with 2-4 clients in each group. These 45-minute therapeutic lessons will teach Horse Sense, Rules and Reasons, basic grooming, tacking, exercises, and riding skills while developing social skills through the use of games and activities related to the environment, horses, and daily living.

Group Lessons are offered on Tuesday evenings at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30pm.

Additional evenings will be added as needed, and by special request.

All lessons will be held for 4-week sessions through the 2015 season.

Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA)

In partnership with Mary Harvey, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Honey Creek Counseling and Recovery Services, LLC., Willow Creek Ranch is proud to offer Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) to address any of the following: trauma, anger management, communication skills, substance abuse, ADD/ADHD, attachment issues, relationship problems, coping skills, grief, anxiety, co-dependency, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), bullying.

EAGALA sessions are held privately with the licensed counselor and equine specialist. New clients are being accepted, contact Jennifer for details.

WCR Website

We are working to update the WCR website (www.willowcreekranch.org). If you would like to submit a testimonial as a client, parent, or volunteer please email your comments to Jennifer for posting on our website. If you have any program pictures or picnic pictures that you would like to share on the website, we encourage you to email those as well. Dan, our website manager, is a valuable friend as he manages our website, posts our information and keeps the information updated. **Thank you Dan!**

Girl Scout visit

The Elkhorn Girl Scout troop will be visiting WCR on Friday May 1, 2015. The troop will consist of about 15 young girls, 12-13 years old. WCR will provide a presentation about therapeutic riding and horse safety. Then the girls will be able to experience firsthand brushing and grooming of the program horses to earn their badge hours. We will be looking for volunteer help when the time is confirmed.

Program Horses

Welcome back Calibur, Dell Rio, Grace, and Slapshot, and new to the program this year, Gator!

This year Calibur is 15 years old; Dell Rio is 23 years old; Grace 18 years old; Slapshot is 13 years old, and Gator is nine years old.

Chexerrific, known as the Gator, has been part of our personal family since he was four years old. He came to us from McBride Quarter Horses, in the great state of Washington, near Medical Lake (Spokane). Gator has outstanding bloodlines from Chex Nu Jewel who earned titles in reining and cow horse competitions. But with Gator's height and non-competitive attitude he did not make the cut to be a reining horse. In the spring of 2011, Kirsten accepted the challenge of training Gator to be a barrel racing horse for NBHA, and a barrel and pole bending competitor in Little Britches Rodeo of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin High School Rodeo Association team. During their NBHA barrel circuit career they qualified and became a State finalist in 2012, Gator and Kirsten also competed at the World Championships in 2012 and 2013 and he finished his career as a World finalist in Perry, Georgia. In four short years, Gator traveled over 20,000 miles during his career.

Gator was introduced into the therapeutic riding program in the fall of 2014, offering lessons to individuals with special needs. I am proud to have the young and talented horse part of the WCR program horse team. He will be a great asset to those wanting to excel in their riding skills. He will finish out his days as a therapeutic riding horse until his "official" retirement. Thank you to my daughter, [Kirsten Pape](#), for sharing her beautiful, fun-loving horse with children and young adults with special needs. He will have a forever home at WCR!

Ranch Babies!

WCR is expanding the Ranch to add Isa Brown chicks. On 3/19/15 we brought ten 3-day old chicks home! Come visit them and help in giving them names, we are looking forward to providing farm fresh eggs. We are also looking for two baby calves to bottle feed and raise. What a great way to add vocational skills to our program and for all those visiting to enjoy life on the Ranch. On April 3, 2015 we added 8 more baby chicks to the program; this time Rainbow chicks and Asian Blue breeds. My, how fast they grow!

Indoor Riding Arena

Plans are being made to build an Indoor Riding Arena! At this time we are gathering quotes for an approximate 72'x160' indoor arena. It's been a long time coming ... and much need for our clients to continue to make progress without the interruption of winter. We will need help with fundraising plans and ideas for this expensive undertaking. Services, materials and volunteer time will also be appreciated.

Welcome Back Volunteers and Welcome to New Volunteers / Orientation Dates

The therapeutic riding program cannot exist without volunteers. We depend on volunteers to help and support our special needs riders, to lead horses during lessons, and to help in many other ways with mailings, fundraising and chores.

If you have volunteered in the past, we need your help! There are opportunities for both daytime and evening help. If you have a friend, neighbor or relative that might be interested in volunteering for WCR, have them check out our website (www.willowcreekranch.org) and complete the Volunteer Interest form online.

The following orientation dates are in preparation for the April riding sessions. Please send an email to wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com with your choice of session; or you may leave a message at WCR 262-806-4080. Go to WCR website and download three volunteer forms, fill out and bring with you to orientation.

Orientation dates:

Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 15 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Thursday, April 16 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Monday, April 20 from 9:00am-10:30am

Monday, April 20 from 5:30-7:00pm

Tuesday, April 21 from 5:30pm -7:00pm

Wednesday, April 22 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Thursday, April 23 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

More dates to come in May and June.

WCR Supporters

Besides the great volunteers who support the therapeutic riding program classes, there are volunteers, parents and community members who support the work of Willow Creek Ranch in other ways. Several volunteers have been at many resource and health fairs throughout the Burlington and Racine areas. Attendance at these events give us a chance to provide information about the WCR therapeutic riding program, learn about other organizations, educate the community about therapeutic riding, publicize our program for special needs and recruit volunteers. And other supporters continue to offer funds to help with program costs and riding scholarships.

Thank you – we appreciate each and every person and company that supports the Willow Creek Ranch mission.

Advisory Committee

Would like to get more involved with WCR! Contact Jennifer and/or Marty to find out how you can help with upcoming events, fundraising, arena building plans, and sensory trails!

262-806-480

wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com

We are looking forward to another rewarding year of learning, teaching, helping and friendship.