

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

Community Class Title: Team Building With Horses

Grade or Age Levels: Ages 7 and up

FORMAT: In-Person

Day AND TIME OF THE WEEK: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00

Class runs from September 10th- October 29th

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 hours (in class instruction)

ADD'L POSSIBLE HOURS: They may always write and reflect in their take home journals at home

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16

LOCATION:

Circle "C" Stable
905 Pine Hills Ln.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Nimtz

CONTACT INFORMATION:

phone: 269-468-3292

email: circlecstable@hotmail.com

website: www.circlecstable.com

Additional Registration is not required at the site but we will ask participants and their guardians to fill out a liability release form at the beginning of the first class.

**see attached instructor qualifications*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In working with horses, students will develop problem-solving skills that encourage individuals to work together as a team in order to achieve positive results. Students will learn how to "think outside of the box", how to use effective communication with others, and evaluate the effectiveness of their solutions. This class is activity based using experiential learning with horses and working together in small groups. Horses are powerful

teachers. They are incredible listeners and mirror back emotions and actions to the humans they work beside. Each week's activity explores the use of effective team building: what does TEAM stand for, how to build trust, how to effectively build verbal and non-verbal communication, effective compromising, strong listening skills and positive behavior during group dynamics.

Syllabus/Outline: Weekly Breakdown of Project-Based Learning Activity

Each week's class requires active participation. Students will be in the arena receiving class instruction alongside the horses. Each week, we will review what they remember from the previous week, and discuss any reflections students might want to share with the group. Then we will explore the topic for that week's class using discussions, games and activities with the horses. Students will work in groups using the team building skills they are learning to lead horses through various activities and obstacle courses. At the end of each week's class, we will help students reflect on what went well, what did not and how to make a change if need be.

Our entire course is focused upon the dynamics of our group and building their strength as a team, and what the horses demonstrate. Horses are powerful teachers. They are incredible listeners and mirror back emotions and actions to the humans they work beside. Therefore, we will cover the below listed topics, but the order may vary due to what we discover in the arena.

Week 1: Learn the rules and safety of the barn and why they are important. Introduction to the horses and learn what TEAM stands for.

Weeks 2 -4 : POSITIVE GROUP DYNAMICS: Learn strategies on how to positively work alongside others in a group...basic manners of taking turns, focusing on an individual's strengths, and how to avoid bullying. Problem Solving: How to develop a plan to solve a problem and how to use reflection a powerful tool in evaluating a solution.

Week 5: COMMUNICATION: Learn effective communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal,.

Week 6: TRUST and COMPROMISE What is trust and how to effectively build trust within group dynamics. What is compromise and how to effectively reach a compromise where every voice is heard.

Week 7: LISTENING SKILLS: What are good listening skills and how to use them effectively

Week 8: Wrap Up and Team Building Project Work/Team Building Project Demonstrations

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

*Working in a Team, create an obstacle course for a horse. The team will have to successfully lead the horse through the obstacle course. They will draw upon their team building skills throughout the course, upon their knowledge of horses behavior experienced and upon their skills of reflection and evaluation to successfully complete their obstacle course.

*At the end of the course, students will understand that there is always more than one solution to a problem.

*Students will be able to employ/recognize positive team relations in order to solve a problem.

*Students will understand basic horse behavior and how to build positive relationships with them.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT- what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

All classes abide by the following:

1) Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.

2) The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

CLASS SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT: Successful Completion of Final Project:

Each week, students will be asked a reflection question and/or journal prompt to answer for the next weeks class. They can record these in a notebook or just have a verbal response. At the beginning of each week, they can share their reflection with the class if they choose as part of our review.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance: Please let me know if your student will not be attending due to illness or vacation. You can just call us and leave a message.

Behavior: If your student is disrespectful in class, distractive or puts other students or horses in danger, I will ask they be picked up early.

Weather: I follow the local district for closures. If the district the class is held in

closes we will not have class. If you do not feel safe going out, then please stay home and just let me know. We will hold a make up lab or arrange an at home activity.

Other: We will be working with horses everyday. All students are required to have close toed shoes and to wear pants. Our arena is heated during the winter months, but always bring layers to wear.