

Rancho Rio Verde Riding Club

Peninsula Bay Cities Day Camp

Welcome to Horsemanship Camp at Rancho Rio Verde Riding Club!

This is an introductory level camp geared for the beginner and novice riders. At the stable, campers are divided by ability into two groups. Both groups will spend time learning how to safely lead a horse, how to saddle a horse, mounting and dismounting, and riding skills. In addition, every participant learns about horses, horsemanship, basic horse care, English and Western tack, horse anatomy, shoeing, feed and more.

When riding, the campers are divided in to smaller classes of 2-3 children. Ring instruction includes exercises on horseback to encourage confidence and balance with an emphasis on the fundamentals of balance, position and soft hands. Riders will be led around the ring at the walk while they are taught to start, stop and steer.

The next step is to use the newly learned skills to navigate a small obstacle course before going on to trotting. Trotting will be “on the lunge” with those who want to try. Trotting is not mandatory but we encourage everyone to try at least once! We find that most children do try and find it to be “bouncy” and great fun! When proper balance can be demonstrated at the trot on the lunge, campers will be able to try it on their own.

Campers will also have the opportunity to enjoy Vaulting—gymnastics on horseback. This is an exciting experience for many as they discover unique things they can do on Horseback!

Our staff is very knowledgeable and patient, while our horses are familiar with teaching and are comfortable with a variety of riders. Every effort will be made to match riders to appropriate horses. We will try to ensure that a camper receives the same horse every day to foster that special bond that can develop between horse and rider.

If your child has more experience or plans on attending multiple sessions, arrangements will be made to teach more advanced work. The rider must be able to demonstrate various skills off the lunge line and basic school figures before beginning advanced work that may progress to cantering.

You are welcome to visit the stable at any time. Horses are a unique and wonderful world. We are glad we have this opportunity to share with you a glimpse into that world.

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