



Gully's
Learning Ranch

OCTOBER 2024



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO
AUTUMN!

Look at the different coloured leaves,
Swaying gently in the breeze,
Lovely reds, browns and greens,
All waiting to fall from the trees.
When they leave they twist and turn,
Ready to join the masses of fern,
Landing softly on the ground,
You can taste the smell of autumn, all
around.

- Amy Boothby, Age 10

Welcome!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter e-mail chain!

Each month, your e-newsletter is delivered right to your inbox – delivering important information regarding upcoming events and programs, interesting information from the world of equine assisted learning and experiential learning, and all things Gully's Learning Ranch – plus a monthly coupon!

We look forward to bringing you all the latest news from around our ranch – please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for future installments.

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Horses & Professional Development

Who said that team building and leadership development needs to be competitive? Sure, paintball is a good time, but where is the application for your team? What are they learning? When we are working on developing teamwork, we want to focus on collaboration, not competition. Team building and leadership development work hand-in-hand. Our program offers a unique opportunity that requires both effective teamwork and strong leadership. Equine Assisted Learning is a unique experience outside of the office, that will show results in the board room. Herds to horses are like teams to people – we all work together. Our unique skills development program allows for the development of trust, interpersonal communication, collaboration, and more.

Truly not “just another” team building activity – get authentic results! Experiential learning ensures that the skills development is both fun and memorable. What a team learns is important, but... what they remember is priceless! Experiential learning is “learning by doing” and is the oldest form of learning. Our program allows for the opportunity to work hands-on in an environment where all learning styles and senses are stimulated, to allow for the transfer of learning. The learning experience does not end with the session, as lessons are paralleled back to everyday life.

Horses have an amazing ability to teach us about teamwork and leadership. Teams and herds both need leaders in order to succeed. However, leadership is not by dominance, and that has been studied in both human and herd life. Working as a team for horses is essential for their survival. As prey animals, horses must be aware of their surroundings and quick to react to the stimuli around them – including the stimulus that WE bring into their environment through our state of mind and our intentions (they can even hear our heartbeat!). In a horse’s world, teamwork is expected, and it is respected. Everyone has a job to do to complete the common goal.

Horses seek leadership. If they are not given the type of leadership they are looking for, they will take the leader role. But being a leader to a horse does not mean having to be the CEO of a company or the Prime Minister of Canada. Horses are looking for a leader who is first a leader to themselves. They are looking for a leader who can answer the questions, “Where am I going?” and “How am I going to get there?” – this is the type of leadership a horse is expecting and will respect. Leadership is extremely important in a horse’s world. However, as mentioned, leadership does not come by force or dominance. A true, effective leader is a person who encourages each team member, with clear intention, to do their job to the best of their capabilities in order to reach the team’s common goal. Without clear intention, proper communication, and focus, the horse will not trust their leader. Horses require a leader who they respect and trust – something we would all like in the corporate environment.

Why invest in leadership development? Studies have shown that most leaders have been put in the position because they excel at the work they do. However, many have not been trained on how to lead a team effectively. Our unique experiential learning program gets leaders out of the office and into a learning environment that is stimulating and fun – this ultimately leads to unforgettable learning and irrefutable results. Participants develop the skills and training they need to grow for the team and for themselves. Investing in leaders will allow for profit gain and team development.

Experiential learning allows for individualized leaning and learning as a team, at the same time. It’s a win-win!



UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

October 2024 Events:

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Sunday, October 20th – Sunday, November 24th (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Each week, participants work in teams to navigate their way through an objectively-driven exercise with their horse teacher. Skills include creative problem solving, effective communication, appropriate assertiveness, fair negotiation, teamwork, leadership, and more – all while having fun!

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Monday, October 21st – Monday, November 25th (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

All-Ages Horse Meet & Greet

Saturday, October 26th (1pm-1:45pm)

Come and groom, lead, pet, and be around horses. Registration Required.

November 2024 Events:

All-Ages Horse Meet & Greet

Saturday, November 16th (1pm-1:45pm)

Come and groom, lead, pet, and be around horses. Registration Required.

December 2024 Events:

No publicly scheduled events or programs will begin in December. Only private programs available until 2025.

PRIVATE PROGRAMS: Private Programs can be booked for participants who are looking for specific programs, wanting a certain date and/or time, or wanting a more personal and/or customized experience with our horse teachers. Private Programs are ideal for those who are looking for a unique, personal experience for family, friends, co-workers, teammates, students, employees, and more! Private Programs are run for just you and the participants you bring along with you.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS: Although we love to see our participants working in teams, our program is easily adaptable to a single participant and can be customized to meet your goals, your family's goals, or a client's goals. With huge success, we have developed a single participant program that still includes tons of life and social skills development, while also allowing for one-on-one time with our horse teachers! Although participants do not have another human team member, their horse team member is just as important and interactive team member. A horse has a similar emotional language as humans and is a powerful parallel to building a friendship with another human being.

January 2025 Events:

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Saturday, January 11th – Saturday, February 15th (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Offered for Youth/Teens in our community. Our 6-Week Curriculum Program focuses on the development of life skills / interpersonal communication skills.

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Friday, January 17th – Friday, February 21st (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Offered for Youth/Teens in our community. Our 6-Week Curriculum Program focuses on the development of life skills / interpersonal communication skills.

Sunday, January 19th (1pm-1:45pm)

Come and groom, lead, pet, and be around horses. Registration Required.

**** Please note that dates and times are subject to change ****



Please keep in mind, extreme cold and stormy weather conditions cause us cancellations, reschedules, and delays of events and programs during the winter. Private Programs are available.

February 2025 Events:

Sunday, February 9th (1pm-1:45pm)

Come and groom, lead, pet, and be around horses. Registration Required.

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Sunday, February 23rd – Sunday, March 30th (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Offered for Youth/Teens in our community.

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Monday, February 24th – Monday, March 31st (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Offered for Youth/Teens in our community.

March 2025 Events:

6-Week Youth & Teen Curriculum Programs

Saturday, March 8th – Saturday, April 12th (11am-12:15pm & 1pm-2:15pm)

Offered for Youth/Teens in our community.

Friday, March 14th (1pm-1:45pm)

Come and groom, lead, pet, and be around horses. Registration Required.

Harvest Time Is The Best Time!

Harvest time is upon us once again! Harvest brings us festivals, fairs, and celebrations. But why is harvest such an important part of human culture and society? Harvest marks an end to the growing cycle and allows us to begin storage of food for the upcoming winter, whether that food is for human or animal consumption. This time of year is also important in the form of personal growth and development. Nature shows us how patience is rewarded and that tending to other beings brings us closer to knowing our true self. During harvest season, we see hard work actually pay off as farmers work nonstop on their fields. There are many reasons why harvest time is the best time and here are just a few!

1. Enjoying the fruits of hard labour: There is no better time than harvest time to enjoy the fruits of the hard labour that has been put into a field, a garden, or even into ourselves! Take the time this season to stop and think about what you have accomplished so far this year. Think of all the positives and remember the lessons learned from the negatives. Enjoy the fruits of the hard labour that comes from learning and discovering more about ourselves – and is always refreshing to finish something that you have started! Do you have a project you keep meaning to complete? Harvest time may be a good reminder to get those things done!

2. Becoming closer with nature: Harvesting allows us to appreciate the earth that our crops are planted in, the dirt the seeds were sown into, the rain that water the crop as it grew, the sun that provided nourishment for the plants, and the part we, as humans, play in it all. We are all connected at a fundamental level. The growth of a plant is such a beautiful process, and so is the growth of a person. All growth and learning are a part of nature, including what we learn about ourselves.

3. Recognizing the importance of letting go: With each harvest, we see crops drying out and leaves changing colour. Eventually the trees will be bare. But with each falling leaf, autumn reminds us of the importance of letting go of things that are no longer necessary in your life. As we cut down the crops, we are reminded that in order to have new growth, we must let go of the past and move forward into the future seasons. We must prepare the field after harvest, and this helps us to recognize that forward movement.

4. Learning from past mistakes: Sometimes harvest time does not yield what we expect, and we are left disappointed. Farmers take the opportunity to examine their land, crops, equipment, and more, in order to learn from past mistakes and move forward with new ideas and changes made that are necessary for a healthy growth. We can learn from nature and harvest time, that we sometimes need to look back, make a plan, and have positive change moving into our future.

5. Harvest time is teamwork time: Harvest always reminds us that we need to lean on each other and help each other out. One person cannot harvest all of the crops in all the fields. With teamwork, we see that we can increase our yield and decrease the time spent working. Some fields may have a dozen or more people working to harvest it. Imagine if we worked through difficult problems or overcame challenges the same way throughout human culture and society.

As mentioned, there are many reasons why harvest is an important and significant time of year. Next time you pass a field that is being harvested, stop to not only think of the commitment and integrity by the farmer to it take a seed and turn it into a crop, but also the power of nature and the teamwork required to ensure harvest time yields.



News 'Round The Ranch

Trick Or Treat! Happy Halloween!

We all are wishing you and your family a happy, fun, and safe Halloween this year! Some of our equines have been thinking up their Halloween costumes with their students. Everyone thinks Lady should be a ladybug or a unicorn, Sam should be a superhero, donkey Sadie should be a rabbit (because of her tall ears), Dreamer should be a ballerina, Wayne, Jr. should be a Crayon, and our new girl, Sidney, should be a Medieval knight's brave and powerful steed!

Sidney's First Arena Session!

Our new herd member, Sidney, has settled in and has officially started her teacher training! She has been a bit nervous about the flower cones for weaving, but she is feeling better about those now. We cannot wait to see what lessons she will teach her students! She is a big girl with a big heart.

Arena Fun With Our Donkey Sadie!

These past few months, Sadie has been coming into the arena to teach students the importance of patience, negotiation, kindness, and understanding. Donkeys are different than horses. Sadie decides who she would like to work with. She likes to come in with Lady and Sam!

End Of Hay Season!

This month marks the end of our hay growing season. We will let the field rest until spring! Muffin the barn cat, seen here, loves to help during harvest time. He loves to help by sitting on the hay wagon and supervising the harvest. Seems like a good place to watch the field! Did you know our herd eats about 60,000 pounds of hay a year!?



COUPON

Special Newsletter Coupon – Each month, there will be a coupon at the end of the newsletter. To redeem the coupon, mention the code below when booking your next program!

This month, our coupon is **10% OFF** any program registered for during the month of October 2024.*

CODE: 10OFF

* Valid only for programs that are registered for during the month of October 2024. Program can be of later date.



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OCTOBER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“A firm belief in yourself is all that is needed to alter your life. No one except you alone can change your life.”

- Unknown



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