

Ranch Updates

- Guest Speaker, Sunday, April 8, Orientation and Training
- Riding Lessons start week of April 30
- Town of Waterford agenda: Indoor Riding Arena approvals
- Outdoor Riding Arena, How Can YOU Help?
- Save the Dates:
 - Ranch Rodeo
 - Ranch Clean Up and Sensory Trail Projects
- Sponsor a WCR Horse or a miniature donkey
- This is "YOUR" Ranch – opportunities for support, AmazonSmile

Guest Speaker, Orientation and Training:

Welcome Back! 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 daily chores. If you have previously volunteered, we welcome you back—*you know how much we depend on you!* There are opportunities for both daytime and evening help. If you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative that might be interested in volunteering for WCR, have them check out our website (www.willowcreekranch.org) and have them complete the Volunteer Interest form online. We are happy to give a tour and answer questions.

We are excited to present a speaker before our upcoming Volunteer Orientation. Everyone is welcome to attend the event and volunteers are asked to stay for the orientation.

Sunday, April 8, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm, Jenna Dickson
2:00 - 3:30pm WCR Orientation

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial Action Team, beverages, snacks, and a T-shirt will be provided

Jenna Dickson will present an overview about horses, and how to approach, lead, and ask for something (example is turning the hindquarters). Her focus will be on proper leading and being aware of your body posture/signals and energy and how the horse reacts to you. Then you will have a chance to handle the horses and practice.

We are looking forward to working with Jenna, the Willow Creek Ranch team and program horses!

The presentation and orientation date is in preparation for 2018 riding season, which begins April 30. Please send an email to wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com to RSVP or you may send a text to Jennifer at 414-791-2509.

Indoor Arena Update, Town of Waterford Meetings:

Don Harvey, WCR Volunteer Project Manager, and Brian Murphy, WCR volunteer, and Jennifer Pape will attend the Town of Waterford Planning Commission Meeting on Monday, April 2, at 5:30pm and the Town of Waterford Board Meeting on Monday, April 9, at 5:30pm to present the building proposal for the 40'x30' storage addition onto the existing pole barn and a 72'x120'x14' indoor riding arena.

Outdoor Riding Arena has Trucking Needs!

WCR received a permit from Racine County Zoning Dept., and the Town of Waterford has given permission to remove 4-6" of topsoil from the outdoor riding arena. A local rock quarry is donating sand and gravel material for the arena footing. Imagine an outdoor riding arena with sand! **How Can YOU Help?** WCR is in need of a small bull dozer to remove the top soil and several dump trucks (prefer 5 yard) to haul and move the material to the outdoor arena site.

2018 Rodeo Fundraising Event – Circus Theme

It's going to be the "Greatest Show on Earth" on Saturday, August 18, 2018! WCR will hold its annual fundraising Rodeo; our riders will have a chance to show off their skills to family, friends, and community. This event is a great opportunity for our family of supporters to help us raise funds for the indoor riding arena footing, restroom, electric and plumbing, and viewing area. We are looking forward to this year's event to mark WCR's 11th year serving the community! Please sign up to be on a committee to make this a fun filled day for our guest and riders!

Send an email to wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com to help create a great event. Area of needs: Rodeo sponsors, raffle prizes, concession stand items, circus costumes for horses, photo booth, stage, photographer, carnival games and activities, and prize planning, etc.

Calling All Volunteers, Supporters, and Families – Annual Craft and Clean-up Days scheduled

Mark your calendars! Saturday, April 21, 10 am until Noon, has been set as a Family Day at the Ranch to reconnect (with families, staff and animals), work on projects (cleaning & updating sensory trails, new sensory crafts, freshening up WCR), and brainstorm new projects like, how can we make a Holiday Road?! This is a great opportunity for you to contribute your time and talents! And...we are offering some weekday opportunities in case you can't help on a weekend.

Additional Craft/Work Days are scheduled on:

Tuesday, May 8, 10am-Noon	Saturday, May 19, 10am-Noon
Tuesday, May 22, 10am-Noon	Tuesday, June 12, 10am-Noon
Saturday, June 23, 10am-Noon	Saturday, July 21, 10am-Noon

The WCR sensory riding trail is a rich learning environment of wooded trails consisting of slopes, turns, varied footing, natural sights and sounds, and man-made "activity stations." This integrated environment challenges the riders' balance, stimulates their senses and encourages them to interact with the world around them.

And we need...

Old costume jewelry	Craft paints, all colors	Plastic table cloths
Clear coat spray	Gorilla glue	Plastic Holiday decorations
New or used spray paint, all colors	Protective gloves for painting	Hula Hoops
Circus related decorations or costumes	Material for Rodeo Costumes	PVC poles, 4' length any diameter

Sponsor a Therapy Horse or Miniature Donkey

We need your help! The partnership between the horse, rider, and volunteers is only the beginning ... horse sponsorship is a critical part of WCR's ability to care for and maintain our herd of program horses. The cost of providing our wonderful horse partners includes veterinary services, spring/fall vaccinations, deworming, farrier, dental care, fly spray, grain, hay, treats, supplements, and riding equipment. Our therapy herd of horses costs WCR an average of \$20,000 annually. We ask you or your business to consider sponsoring a therapy horse by making a \$1,500 for one year of sponsorship care, \$750 for six months, or \$125 for one month of care.

Your partnership is needed to help us care for them. Your generous tax-deductible donation will allow WCR to continue to care for a therapy horse or donkey for an entire year! Contact WCR at 262-806-4080 or send an email to wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com to request a sponsorship for to make your gift.

This is ... YOUR Ranch and YOUR Ranch and YOUR Ranch!

WCR was founded in 2007 for special needs children and adults and their families. Whether you take lessons, volunteer, or are a donor to the program, it is for YOU. Willow Creek Ranch is for those with special needs and challenges of everyday life; for families to experience a place of acceptance and learning; for volunteers, a place to escape a mundane job for fresh air and exercise; and for horses, to get a second chance at a new career. Please help where you can.

How Does AmazonSmile help WCR? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases! It's that easy! AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Willow Creek Ranch every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

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Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International and of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Willow Creek Ranch - Where Life Reins...Miracles Happen

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