

November 2, 2011



Apprenticeships in Relational Horsemanship at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch

A DIVISION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

Learn the basics of relational horsemanship and improve existing skills in natural horsemanship training methods with Longmeadow's horse trainer.

A limited number of positions are available for a 260-hour course of study. Through one-on-one instruction with the Longmeadow horse trainer and the opportunity to work with Longmeadow horses on your own, you will learn to communicate clearly and precisely with any horse, using natural horsemanship methods.

This is a rare opportunity to help rehabilitate rescued horses and prepare them for adoption while learning natural horsemanship methods and the art of relational horsemanship. In addition, the program provides invaluable experience working with a large number of horses, including some "problem" horses, on a daily basis.

You may pay in one of two ways: by cash/check or by committing to an additional number of work hours to be spent rehabilitating Longmeadow horses.

Starting from the ground up, the work will include:

- Learning the mechanics of balance, timing, and feel.
- Improving the clarity of communication between you and the horse.
- Understanding how fairness and clear communication help build a safe and trusting relationship between horse and handler.
- Developing training skills, starting with the basics of physical touch, through haltering and groundwork, to training a horse to be ridden effectively and safely.
- Program blocks include horsemanship basics, ground schooling, desensitizing, round penning, longlining/driving, riding foundation, and colt starting.
- NOTE: How far the apprentice progresses, and what duties she/he performs, will depend upon the person's proficiency and the time they have available per week. The Longmeadow trainer will make this decision on a case-by-case basis.

Selection Criteria For Apprenticeship Applicants

- 1) Previous experience with horses—either owning a horse or having worked with/trained horses—is helpful but not required.
- 2) Must display a willingness to learn new techniques and attitudes toward horses.

November 2, 2011

- 3) If applying for the work-hour repayment option, applicant must agree to a time commitment equal to the course hours plus an additional number of work hours dedicated to the apprenticeship program—contact program staff for details.
- 4) Must be able to commit to a minimum of 6 hours per week. (Note: Under exceptional circumstances, or if the applicant is available only on weekends, this requirement may be adjusted or waived.)
- 5) For the health and safety of both apprentices and horses, applicants must meet certain physical requirements, including the following:
 - a. Must be in good physical health and be able to perform required tasks in a manner that is safe for both the apprentice and the horses.
 - b. Must be able to run the width of the indoor arena and back.
 - c. Additional physical requirements apply to those wishing to pursue the mounted portions of the apprenticeship program.

Application Process

- 1) Applicants should contact clinics@hsmo.org for application materials and detailed information on the program.
- 2) Applicant will fill out and sign the application form.
- 3) Applicant will be interviewed by the Longmeadow horse trainer. This interview will include time spent with one or more of the Longmeadow horses.
- 4) Those selected for the apprenticeship program will go through the orientation program required of all Longmeadow volunteers before beginning their ship.

Work is taught and supervised by the Longmeadow horse trainer. Upon completion, a certificate will be issued documenting completion of all requirements.

Cost: \$3,000 for 260-hour session; program blocks may be taken individually as a separate class or as a specialization for an apprentice who cannot commit to the entire program. A repayment plan using additional work hours in exchange for class time is available (see details, below).

Additional program information

Before beginning their apprenticeship, apprentices will read the “pre-ride checklist” article and other materials as specified by the Longmeadow trainer.

Apprentices will be supervised by the Longmeadow horse trainer. Information will be taught by the Longmeadow trainer, assisted by the Lead Apprentice or other apprentices as required. Apprentices are expected to be able to work on their own after adequate instruction.

Certificates will be awarded after successful completion of each block (including completion of additional work hours, if that payment option is selected).

The Horsemanship Training Program staff reserve the right to remove an apprentice from the program if they deem it advisable.

Apprenticeship Program Options and Forms of payment

Each program block listed below can be taken as a separate class or as a specialization for an apprentice who cannot commit to the entire program.

Prerequisites: Completion of Block 1 is a prerequisite for **all** the other blocks. Blocks 2—7 may be taken individually, as follows: Blocks 2—4 may be taken in any order; Block 6 (Riding) also requires completion of Blocks 2, 3, and 4; Block 7 (Colt Starting) requires completion of previous all blocks.

1. Horsemanship Basics (10-hour class): Stall etiquette, introduction to an unknown horse, proper position around the horse, grooming, picking up feet, leading (walk and trot). This course is a prerequisite for all blocks. \$125 (must be paid by cash or check; no work-study commitment is available for this block). We allow and *strongly encourage* an additional 20 hours of practice time for this block.
 2. Ground Schooling, including working over obstacles (40-hour class): \$500 OR an *additional* 80-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (120 total hours).
 3. Desensitizing (40-hour class): \$500 OR an *additional* 80-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (120 total hours).
 4. Round penning (40-hour class): \$500 or an *additional* 80-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (120 total hours).
 5. Longlining/driving (10-hour class). \$125 or an *additional* 20-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (30 total hours).
 6. Riding Foundation (40-hour class): \$500 or an *additional* 80-hour work commitment to the inter apprenticeship nship program (120 total hours).
 7. Colt Starting (80-hour class): \$1,000 or an *additional* 160-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (240 total hours).
- **Complete program: 260 hours of instruction. \$3,000 (a \$250 savings) OR an *additional* 520-hour work commitment to the apprenticeship program (780 total hours).**

November 2, 2011

Payment

Note: Each block (or the complete program, if taken as a whole) must be fully paid for *either* by cash/check or by work hours, not a combination.

If paying by cash/check, payment is expected at or before the first class meeting. Work-repayment hours can begin any time after the first class meeting. An apprentice may drop out of a block during the first half of the classroom instruction and receive a prorated refund, less a non-refundable 1/3 of the block's price. There will be no refund after the first half of the class hours.

If paying with work time, repayment hours may begin any time after the first classroom session.

For additional information and an application form, contact clinics@hsmo.org.