

General Program Information

How did the DOVES Program get started?

The Oxford's love of children and horses along with their love of teaching and sharing their passion has lead them to a decision to open their ranch to children and families who yearn to experience the relationship with one of God's most unique and beautiful animal - The Horse.

How can I get my child involved?

Contact the ranch at (209)224-0311 for an interview and to schedule an appointment. Scheduling for the next month begins on the 15th of the current month (i.e. scheduling for March begins on Feb. 15th). Our season opens during the first week of March each year and runs through mid November.

Can I send my child to the ranch?

Part of the Family & Youth Horsemanship focus is to bring families together. Because of this principle we ask that parents accompany their child. A parent's presence is quite often central to a child's learning process. The impact of a parent cheering their child to victory has become very apparent to us. The ranch is not a residential facility, so out of town guests must find their own lodging.

Please be aware that Oxford Ranch offers a day program only, and sessions must be scheduled ahead of time.

What children does The DOVES Program serve?

The ranch serves all children between the ages of 7 and 18. Being a kid in this day and age is tough enough. We want to reach out to all youth from all situations and offer them a special place to learn about what horses can give.

What do you charge for a child to attend the program?

Our program is absolutely free of charge. The only requirement for children is that they *want* to attend.

Can we visit the ranch?

We would love to have you out to the ranch even if it is just for a visit. We are open to the public by appointment only. Please feel free to call us at (209) 224-0311 to schedule a visit.

Does the ranch ever close?

We offer our program from March through November. December through February sessions are schedule by special request or circumstances.

Is the Program a residential facility?

At this time it is a day-use facility only. This means those who use the ranch visit it during the day but are not housed here.

Can visiting families or groups be hosted overnight on the facility grounds?

We are unable to host overnight guests, families, volunteer groups or participants at this time.

How and when do I schedule my child(ren) for a lesson?

Please cal (209)224-0311 to schedule a day and time.

Who needs a completed release form to be on ranch grounds?

Everyone! Because of the unpredictable nature of horses and ranch life, you and each person you bring is required to have our current release on file or completed first thing on arrival. Release forms must be renewed at the start of every year.

Do I need to stay on the property during my child's session?

Yes. Though parents are free to rest at the picnic tables, rest in the barn or stay in their car in the parking lot, we require that parents stay on the property during their child's session.

Where do I park when I come to the ranch?






For the safety of the children and horses, we request that parents and visitors park in the designated areas. Please drive slowly up the driveway and be sure to keep your eyes open for children and animals.

Will my child always ride during his or her session?

There may be times when your child will not ride during his or her session. They may take part in learning to groom, clean tack, help with chores etc. Although we aspire to help your child become a safe rider who understands and cares for horses, our main goal is not to produce "accomplished" riders. If this is your hope, we would recommend scheduling your child for riding lessons at a traditional stable.

Because we are a non profit program and do not charge a fee, all monies to support the horses care, maintenance and to maintain a clean and safe facility, must come from donations or sponsors.

How can you help?***Ways to Help:***

-  Donate money
-  Donate tack or supplies
-  Donate Feed and or services
-  Help with fund raising
-  Ask about sponsoring a horse

Most donations are tax deductible and donated money goes into the general fund, unless otherwise specified.

