



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank~



STAR VOLUNTEER E-NEWS

Happy 2010 STAR Vols!



We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season!! STAR is excited about the upcoming year and we are glad that you will be a part of it!! Our major construction is winding down and the Winter Session is underway.

STAR's Horse Leader Policy

We have had several inquiries about STAR's Horse Leader Policy, so we thought it would be a great time to clarify some issues. It is STAR's policy that all volunteers interested in becoming Horse Leaders must volunteer at least one session before attending the Horse Leaders Workshop. History has shown that a volunteer who has been exposed to our classes prior to becoming a Horse Leader is better equipped to handle the horse during class. Volunteers must attend the Horse Leaders Workshop and must pass the test in order to lead in class. There are some exceptions to this, but those decisions are made by STAR's experienced staff, equine managers, and/or instructors. A volunteer who has **not** attended the HL Training may be asked to lead in class (if an instructor is in a "pinch"), but that does not qualify that volunteer as a Horse Leader. We are striving for consistency with our horse leading and the only way to achieve this is to ensure that our volunteers are all equally trained! As great as our horses are, problems have been generated with them due to the lack of uniformity on how they are handled. STAR will conduct HL Workshops towards the end of each session. Once a volunteer has passed the test, he/she will be classified as a Horse Leader and can be used in that capacity for the next session. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!!

News Flash!!

To Our Monday Volunteers: STAR **will** have classes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18th. If you cannot make it, please find a sub. Thanks!!!



Horse Highlights

Our equine partners have had a nice long break and are ready to get back to work!! Not much has changed with our herd! Sammy has been added to several classes this session and has shown great potential! Justin was on stall rest for several weeks due to a hind leg injury, but has recuperated nicely. He is ready to go for our Winter Session.

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Training And Session Information

- Barn Helpers/Blanketing Workshop is Sat. Jan. 16, 3:00p.m.-5:30p.m.
- Winter Session ends February 27, 2010.
- Lesson Vol Training is Sun., Feb. 28, 1:30-5:30.
- Junior Vol Training is Mon. March 1st from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.



Volunteer Tips!

- If you are helping with barn chores and the water system is off, please use the hoses to fill the water buckets. Be sure to disconnect and drain them when you are finished and roll them back up on the hose rack.
- We will have class when it's cold, so please remember to dress appropriately. Multiple layers help to keep you warm and wearing a hat can help too!! Gloves are a must!
- If classes are canceled due to inclement weather, the decision will typically be made by 12:00 p.m. that day. You will be contacted via phone.

"Be More" Awards Finalist



STAR is honored to have been selected as one of three finalists in the 2010 East Tennessee Public Television 'Be More' Awards. The winner will be announced at the Awards Luncheon on February 25th, 2010. As stated on ETPTV's website, "The goal for the Be More Awards is to bring recognition to the often unsung heroes of the East Tennessee nonprofit community. It is a celebration of local nonprofit organizations that work to inspire our community and everyday people to **be more.**" STAR is a finalist in the Local Service category. The ETPTV website is www.etptv.org. Feel free to visit it for more information.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at volcoord@rideatstar.org or call 865-988-4711.

