

February 22, 2021

Dear Girl Scout Community,

Given the challenges we faced over the past year, we made the difficult decision of pausing our horse program. Our duty to care for the horses was our number one priority. With the pandemic continuing to constrain our ability to provide consistent in-person programs, our horses needed to be in environments where daily exercise is maintained for their optimum health.

This January, we started the process of selling our horse herd, with our Girl Scout community given preference to purchase them. We're happy to report that we've sold or placed 26 horses in homes that we strongly believe are in their best interest and will provide lifetime care.

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in our horses. We received over 140 applications, many from our Girl Scout community. We worked in close partnership with Lhanze Kohr of Kohr Values Equine, who went above and beyond to help with transportation, care and showing to potential buyers. Lhanze worked with us to honor our application process and give preference to our Girl Scout community.

Here is where our horses have found their new homes:

- 6 horses were returned to prior owners who had donated or sold them to GSWW.
- 3 horses were sold to people who were leasing them.
- Jamison, Xena, Fiona, and Ike were sold to Lang's Horse and Pony Farm where Girl Scouts will continue to have access to them through program opportunities. GSWW is in communication with Lang's about partnership opportunities.
- 6 horses were sold to families and individuals from our Girl Scout community, several with prior connections to specific horses.
- 3 horses were sold to personal connections of Kohr Values Equine.
- Chip and Bud were rehomed through personal contacts of our staff.
- Dream and Stoney were sold to Burkwood Farms.
- Lucy, age 22, and Dakota, age 19, both underwent veterinary assessments that diagnosed each of them with significant health issues. For their own well-being, we made the sad but necessary decision to euthanize these beloved horses.

For summer 2021, we won't be able to offer horse camp sessions at either of our camp properties; however, GSWW will continue with maintenance and upkeep of equine facilities at Camp River Ranch and Camp St. Albans. We need more time to assess the pandemic and camp property strategies before we implement new horse programming. Camp St. Albans will remain closed through this membership year. We'll share details of our 2021 summer camp program opportunities in early March.



In 2022, we're committed to seeking an avenue to provide horse programming that meets what our members want and is sustainable for the council. We're exploring options including leasing and partnering with local equine vendors.

When we move beyond the limitations of COVID-19, our 3rd party partners will resume program offerings. If you know of an equine facility that may be interested in being a 3rd party program partner with Girl Scouts of Western Washington, please have them email Tara Stone at TStone@GirlScoutsWW.org to be considered as a partner.

The horses were deeply loved by many, some were in our program for years. While we're saddened about pausing one of our favorite programs and will greatly miss these wonderful horses, we're thrilled that our horses can thrive in their new, loving homes while we build our next normal together.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Ferland".

Megan Ferland, CEO
Girl Scouts of Western Washington

We also want to apologize for the abrupt closure of our Horses of River Ranch and Horses of St. Albans Facebook and Instagram pages. Our staff admins were somehow removed from these accounts and they were closed without our consent. We had hoped the memories and photos of our horses shared in these spaces would remain available to our community.