



Horse Herd Reduction

For decades, Girl Scouts of Western Washington's horse programs have been a source of joy and personal growth for many across our council. Our commitment is to continue providing opportunities for girls to build courage, confidence, and character by connecting with horses for decades to come.

Keeping horses is expensive, and our current herd size is not financially sustainable long term. Because of this reality, we've made the difficult, but necessary, decision to reduce the size of our horse herd to a total of 28 horses. With this reduction, horse programming at Camp River Ranch and Camp St. Albans will be impacted. We are working through how best to move forward with camp and equestrian programming to ensure girls have access to our horses year-round.

How are we deciding which horses to keep and which to sell?

- Keep horses that are best suited for our programs and girls (with an emphasis on beginning riders and foundational riding skills).
- Keep horses that are most utilized for all aspects of our equestrian programs.
- Return horses to owners who recently sold or donated them to us.
- Sell horses to lesson participants who have an existing relationship with a specific horse.
- Sell horses that are not as happy in a camp or group setting as others.

We are committed to finding healthy, happy, and safe homes for our horses; their wellbeing is paramount to all sales. Our goal is to sell our horses to people who are

committed to lifetime care for the horses they purchase, and we will continue to search for suitable homes until all horses are placed. We also know that many of these horses are beloved by our members and we would like to give our membership priority access to our horse sale application. We have identified specific horses best suited to sell, and members are welcome to buy one of these horses. Skillset and costs vary, but if interested, [please submit your application here.](#)

We also care deeply about our aging horses, and want to ensure they have a good quality of life until the last of their days. As our horses age, they may become less suited as a lesson and trail horse in a camp program setting. These horses are still active and can make an excellent family horse for years to come, many are particularly well suited for youth riders. If you are interested in providing a good home to one of our aging horses, please reach out!

The future of our equestrian programming is bright. This is a time for us to step back and assess, to ensure we move forward with a thoughtful plan, a clear vision, and horses best suited to our programs. By reducing the size of our herd, we can build our future in a sustainable way, and ensure girls have access to quality horse programming for decades to come.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Tara Stone
VP of Camp Programs & Properties