Silver Buckle Youth Equestrian Center

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS



Our lesson horse...
Rocky!

Rocky is one of our long-standing lesson horses here at the Buckle. He is a 26 year old Pony of the Americas ("POA") that belongs to Peggy Neikirk and is partially leased to the Ranch for programs. Rocky has been with Peggy since he was 3 years old. She drove her daughter and Rocky all over the country showing in every event and all the large shows in POA from coast to coast, earning many many belt buckles, trophies and saddles for many years. Rocky achieved the Registry of Merit in all three categories of Halter, Performance and Gaming earning his Supreme Champion status in the breed by the age of five.

After an extensive show career, he became a trail horse supreme (including Extreme Trail) and he and Peggy's favorite pastime is being out in the woods among the trees.

Rocky came to the Buckle to assist with lessons in the summer of 2013 and has been a favorite of the students ever since. Rocky excels at teaching from the youngest to the most experienced of the students at SBYEC and participates in the Rein and Shine 4-h club – earning his rider a trip to State last year.



Meet Instructor Maddie!

Maddie has been an instructor at SBYEC for about six months and has been such a great asset to our program! She's primarily been teaching Rising Stars (our lead line group) and lunge line lessons (the next level up). Here's a little bit about her:

She started riding when she was about 5 at her aunt's training facility. When she was 15, she bought her horse, Addie. Addie was also 15 at the time but just started under saddle. She needed a lot of training and was a very nervous horse but they worked together everyday. In her junior and senior year they won the performance high points in their WAHSET (Washington High School Equestrian Team) district! Maddie has also participated in 4-h from age 8-19, while also doing paint and pinto breed shows.

Maddie likes working at SBYEC, "Because I love watching kids fall in love with horses like I did so long ago. It makes every lesson worth every single moment. I love teaching kids how to ride because I love watching them progress and grow with horses!"



Moving up!!

Here at SBYEC, we are committed to teaching quality lessons in a fun and safe way. We focus on the "basics": the fundamentals of balance, good use of aids and responsible horsemanship.

The riders in our program are steadily going through our curriculum and accomplishing benchmarks that will help them to become better riders and horsemen. Congratulations to the following riders who are moving up a level in April!

1b: Una, Amelia, Aimee, Julian and Finn.

1c: Parker, Kodi, Noel, Linden, and Rose.

2a: Ember, Quinn and Alice.

2b: Ziva K, Vivianne M., Vivian D., Emmerson and Brynne.

3a: Emmerson (moved up two levels!) and Ella B.

Well done, everyone! We're proud of all of you!

SBY Equestrian Center