

Student work schedule should align with operation hours:

Monday – Friday 1:00-5:00

Weekend hours flexible/potential, depending on student schedule and staff availability.

Velvet Noses Horse Ministry is not a religious organization, however our foundational principles are God centered. There is nothing in the internship which will incorporate that aspect in the work.

About the employer:

<https://www.velvetnoshorseministry.org/about-us>

Velvet Noses Horse Ministry usually conducts 625 - 925 Sessions a year and we added three (3) Summer Camps and served another 36 children for 3, 4-day weeks.

Through hands on experience and direction from other volunteers you learn to teach children:

Responsibility - Cleaning up, grooming and feeding horses teaches all how to be responsible for the care of a horse and the equipment that it takes, that it's not just about riding.

Respect - Children learn to respect the horse for their size and to be safe around them.

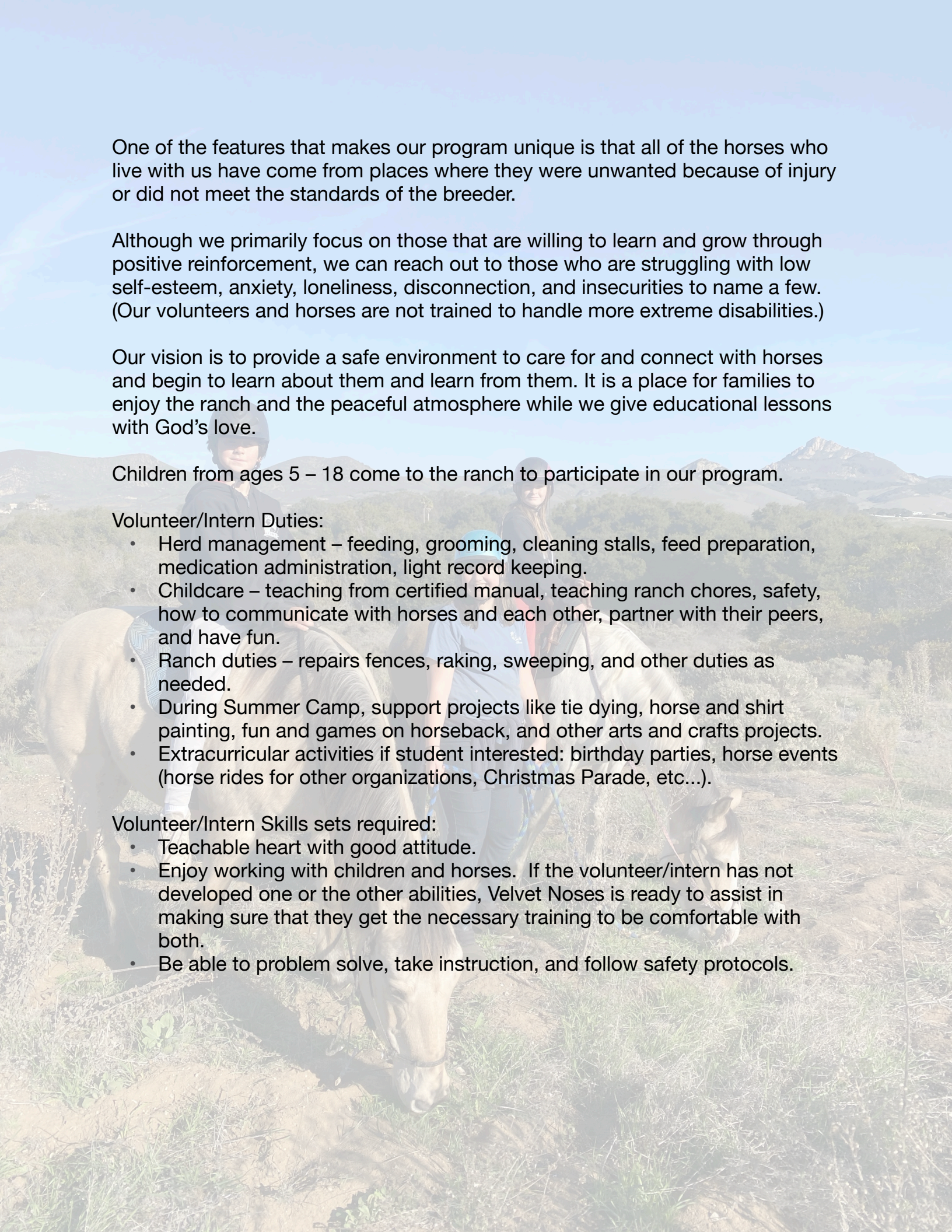
Self-control - A child must discipline themselves and learn the proper ways to care for a horse as well as ride it.

Patience, empathy, and kindness - Through a horse, children can become caretakers. Attending to the needs of the horse enhances their ability to empathize.

Physical Health - The Bureau of Health Services commissioned a study which found that just half an hour of horse related activity, such as mucking out, is classed as moderate exercise, while trotting can burn up to 600 calories per ride!. I say that's Physical Health.

Mental Health - Research has shown that a child's stress hormone cortisol is lowered when they work with a horse. A combination of fresh air, exercise, friendships and developing relationships with horses has been proven to be mentally satisfying. It can change a child's whole outlook on life.

Social skills / companionship - Horses not only make great friends but they also attract other children which makes it easy and fun for your child to make new friends with a common interest.

The background image shows a ranch setting with a clear blue sky and distant mountains. In the foreground, a light-colored horse is grazing on grass. Behind it, a person wearing a blue shirt and a blue cap is standing. To the left, another person in a dark shirt and a riding helmet is partially visible. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

One of the features that makes our program unique is that all of the horses who live with us have come from places where they were unwanted because of injury or did not meet the standards of the breeder.

Although we primarily focus on those that are willing to learn and grow through positive reinforcement, we can reach out to those who are struggling with low self-esteem, anxiety, loneliness, disconnection, and insecurities to name a few. (Our volunteers and horses are not trained to handle more extreme disabilities.)

Our vision is to provide a safe environment to care for and connect with horses and begin to learn about them and learn from them. It is a place for families to enjoy the ranch and the peaceful atmosphere while we give educational lessons with God's love.

Children from ages 5 – 18 come to the ranch to participate in our program.

Volunteer/Intern Duties:

- Herd management – feeding, grooming, cleaning stalls, feed preparation, medication administration, light record keeping.
- Childcare – teaching from certified manual, teaching ranch chores, safety, how to communicate with horses and each other, partner with their peers, and have fun.
- Ranch duties – repairs fences, raking, sweeping, and other duties as needed.
- During Summer Camp, support projects like tie dying, horse and shirt painting, fun and games on horseback, and other arts and crafts projects.
- Extracurricular activities if student interested: birthday parties, horse events (horse rides for other organizations, Christmas Parade, etc...).

Volunteer/Intern Skills sets required:

- Teachable heart with good attitude.
- Enjoy working with children and horses. If the volunteer/intern has not developed one or the other abilities, Velvet Noses is ready to assist in making sure that they get the necessary training to be comfortable with both.
- Be able to problem solve, take instruction, and follow safety protocols.