

KEA PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

KEA Peer Leader – \$50 annual membership

Our Peer Leadership Program provides a safe space for our students to learn, develop, and grow. Key outcomes include relationship-building skills, personal responsibility, self-confidence, and gaining technical skills. A working student gets the opportunity to interact with a variety of horses thus gaining valuable experience and foundational knowledge.

The program consists of a time for lessons exchange, made available only to very dedicated, hardworking, capable individuals. Student must have 6 months of riding lessons at Kern Equestrian Academy before applying, be over the age of 10, and must sign a standard waiver for both riding and work activities.

Responsibilities:

Student will need to be at the barn for 3 hours a day, 2 or 3 times a week. Responsibilities include groundwork, lunging, grooming, clipping, tacking, untacking, riding, help with beginner lessons, feeding, stall cleaning, trailer loading, show readiness and grooming at show locations, etc. Student will be guided by an experienced trainer through the training process allowing the student to build their skill set.

Benefits:

Technical knowledge of horsemanship and the horse industry including regular coaching on how to handle, train, and ride a variety of horses at varying stages of training. This type of technical knowledge can lead to future employment in the industry.

Considerations:

An apprentice rider is responsible for their own safety, and while measures are taken to ensure positive, safe training for both the student and horse, not every scenario can be foreseen. All apprentice riders must sign a complete release of liability. Sensitivity is required when working with animals owned by others. An apprentice rider must understand that training methods are done for the most positive outcome for the horse, and are always done in the horses best interest. Positive language and professional behavior is expected at all times. This is an opportunity and a privilege given by the head trainer, and this must always be kept in mind.

A schedule is expected to be kept and adhered to.