



Other Ways to Get Involved and Enjoy Ironstone Farm

Please Join Us!

Volunteer Program

Challenge Unlimited depends upon the assistance of over 200 volunteers each week. Volunteers lead our horses or side-walk alongside clients to ensure the safety of the rider. If interested, please contact our Volunteer team at volunteer@challengeunlimited.org. Each interested volunteer will complete a 2 hour training workshop where he/she will be introduced to the herd and instructed on how to work with our horses and our clients. No experience is necessary. Must be 13 years of age or older.

Horsemanship Program

Ironstone Farm offers a course that provides an overview of the basics of equine understanding, care, and management. The Horsemanship Course is a pre-requisite for apprentice instructors at Ironstone Farm preparing for Massachusetts licensure, and an elective for others interested in expanding their knowledge of horses beyond riding. Evening classes are taught by Ironstone Farm team members who bring a variety of expertise and perspective for a dynamic and educational program. Classes are split between lecture and outdoor hands-on activities.

Apprentice Instructor Program

Ironstone Farm offers an opportunity for people interested in becoming a licensed Massachusetts horseback-riding instructor through our Apprentice Program. The program contains practical and classroom instruction providing a framework to prepare for the Massachusetts Horseback Riding Instructor Test administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Sixty apprentice hours (to be completed within six months – one year) are required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. These hours are completed through hands-on practical instruction with our Ironstone Farm team member as a mentor. The Horsemanship Program is a required pre-requisite for taking the Apprentice Instructor Program. Apprentices must be 18 years of age or older. Please contact programs@challengeunlimited.org for more information on these or any of the programs offered at Ironstone Farm.

Working Student Program

The specialized working student program is offered to current volunteers ages 13-18 who have demonstrated proficient equine knowledge and interest through volunteering at Ironstone Farm. The Working Student position is conducted as a first job for students. The skills of customer service, responsibility, follow-through and team work are taught, demonstrated and encouraged. Working Students will be given a work schedule and trained in a variety of equine-related jobs. The Working Student accrues riding lessons and “free” riding time as a benefit of participating in the program.

Feeding Program

Ironstone Farm offers volunteers the chance to get to know our herd! Feeders are needed for morning feeding and related farm chores. Please contact the Director of Equine Operations by calling the office for more information.