



## Zaniez Launches Zippotherapy: Where Furry Friends, Hoofbeats and Tail Wags Work Their Magic on Autism Spectrum Adventures

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Get ready to giggle, grow, and gallop toward greatness! Zaniez Farm Trade School—the joyful, 501(c)(3) nonprofit oasis that’s all about empowering autism spectrum kids, teens, and adults through farm fun and equestrian magic—is thrilled to unveil ZIPPOTHERAPY, the super-playful animal therapy work study program that’s about to make hearts (and tails) wag like never before 🐾🐾

Students, lead by trade school professionals in art, woodworking, music, cooking, science, husbandry, gardening and automotive, dive into hands-on “work study” adventures where they groom, feed, walk, and play with rescue dogs, gentle horses, and other farm pals. Some lead the sessions like mini-therapists-in-training, others soak up the cozy calm and connection, and many do both—because why not double the delight? ZIPPOTHERAPY is open to Zaniez students and non-students in the autism community, turning every cuddle, brush, and belly rub into a superpower-building moment for social smiles, calmer vibes, chattier chats, and big bursts of confidence.

And the best part? Science says these furry (and feathered, and hooved) friends are seriously amazing helpers for folks on the spectrum. Recent studies show animal-assisted therapy sparks big wins—like better social communication, less irritability and hyperactivity, and even more words flowing freely (one big review of over 1,200 kids found solid gains in social skills and word usage!). Purdue University research spotted a whopping 54% jump in social behaviors and a 43% drop in anxiety signs during animal sessions. Other exciting findings highlight 60-80% improvements in social interaction, emotional glow, and stress-busting—turning “hard days” into “hooray days” with the help of a loyal doggo or a sweet horse hug.

“ZIPPOTHERAPY is pure farm magic in motion!” beams Dana Shafman, Zaniez founder and chief joy-spreader. “Whether a student is proudly leading a therapy walk, giggling through a grooming game, or just melting into a peaceful pony moment, animals become the best teachers—patient, non-judgmental, and full of unconditional love. We’re creating a place where every tail wag and nuzzle builds independence, sparks friendships, and lights up entire families. Come join the fun—your adventure awaits!”



Zaniez is gearing up for its exciting summer 2026 soft launch, perfectly timed with school breaks so families can jump right in. Nestled on a sunny, serene farm in Wittmann, Arizona, the school blends outdoor classrooms, trade skills (farming, animal care, carpentry & more), splashy swimming sessions, weekly family nights, support circles, and now this tail-wagging ZIPPOTHERAPY extravaganza—all in a strengths-first, celebration-filled space.

**Enrollment is open now at [ZaniezKids.com](http://ZaniezKids.com)!**

Use Arizona’s ESA program, private pay, or snag scholarship help—no family gets left out of the fun.

**ABOUT ZANIEZ FARM TRADE SCHOOL**

Zaniez is Arizona’s happiest farm trade school for autism spectrum families—where equestrian adventures, animal cuddles, hands-on trades, and community love team up to chase away isolation, spark independence, and grow big, bright futures... one playful, paws-itively perfect day at a time. Zaniez is dedicated to providing innovative, community-driven educational experiences for children, youth, and adults, with a focus on trade skills, creativity, and real-world application through its programs at [www.ZaniezKids.com](http://www.ZaniezKids.com).

Ready for interviews, future farm visits, donations to promote smiling spectrum faces and wagging tails, or more details? Reach out today!

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