

TAHQUITZ WRANGLER PROGRAM

Horses at Tahquitz

This is a unique experience that you will only find at Camp Tahquitz. This is a “immersion” program for any Scout BSA attending Tahquitz - regardless of riding experience - will be able to develop and improve horsemanship skills, experience care and feeding of horses, build confidence, and have an unforgettable experience.

A scout will be assigned a horse for a week, and they will be responsible for feeding, cleaning, tacking, watering, and of course, riding “their” horse.

Using the “Buddy System”, each pair of scouts will be assigned a horse for the week. Throughout the week, that will be “their” horse to care for, feed, and of course ride! There will be group rising lessons, first in a controlled ring, then on the trail, and then have a chance to earn bragging rights on our renowned Endurance Bridle Path. When not on the horse, Scouts will be able to experience ranch skills such as pasture maintenance, stable management, as well as water and feed selection

Why horses?

Once part of a daily experience for American youth – in 1911 a First-Class requirement was to know how to respond to a runaway horse – in recent years many scouts only have experienced horses on carousels. If horses are no longer a daily fixture in the lives of our scouts, why would 21st Century Scouts BSA want to work with horses?

A Scout who participates in the Tahquitz Wrangler Program get to...

✓ Exercise in the Outdoors!

Training, feeding, brushing, and riding horses at Camp Tahquitz are no small matter, and if your scout is going to care for and spend time with a horse, he/she will be getting a great deal of moving done! In today’s video-game, computerized society, any excuse to get their bodies moving is a good one. A horse provides these opportunities in endless supply.

✓ Gain Confidence

As your scout learns to care for the horse at Camp Tahquitz, train it, and ride it successfully, an incredible feeling of confidence is sure to follow. A horse presents a chance for your scout to find achievement in something tangible that will take patience and effort to obtain. So many valuable lessons can be gained from a horse.

- ✓ practice responsibility.
One of the major lessons a horse at Camp Tahquitz reinforces in a scout is that of responsibility. A horse does indeed take work, but the rewards are genuine. As your scout learns to manage their time and keep equipment clean and organized, he/she will discover more about responsibility each and every day.
- ✓ Learn compassion and respect.
A horse at Camp Tahquitz is a great lesson in humility. Caring for a large and powerful creature and having it learn to trust you is humbling and wonderful. As your scout spends time at Camp Tahquitz with their assigned horse, he/she will learn the value of all living creatures and will learn to treat their horse, and other animals, with deep respect.
- ✓ receive Mental stimulation.
Riding and training a horse at Camp Tahquitz is perhaps most of all a mental exercise. Horses can present challenges and obstacles (and can occasionally be stubborn learners). As your scout deals with these, working through and solving problems, he/she will likely find that the skills developed in this arena can translate to all other areas of their life.
- ✓ Establish Priorities
When your scout gets to have a horse assigned to them at Camp Tahquitz, they learn quickly that this is a big deal. The horse must become one of their main priorities. This means they may have to budget their time, shoulder the caring, cleaning, training, and other chores. Handling such things can help scouts learn early on what it means to make priorities in life.
- ✓ Overcome Challenges
Horses are unique and fascinating creatures. Now and then, the horse may present an unfamiliar challenge to your scout. Together with other scouts close to his/her own age, they will need to find the ideal solution to the situation. This can increase your scout's confidence, self-esteem, and overall belief in his/her abilities and knowledge.
- ✓ Spend Time Outside
Do you ever find yourself encouraging your scout to put down the electronics and get outside? When your scout has a horse assigned to him at Camp Tahquitz, your scout will have a great reason to experience and commune with the natural world.
- ✓ Most Importantly...
Horses make life better. All in all, a horse makes your life richer and more fulfilled. Young people can find an amazing bond with their sleek, powerful friends. A horse in your scout's life means they will have a special, trustworthy friend that will have a lasting impact on their lives.

It is not only your scout who will benefit from this graceful creature in his life - you will as well, as you listen, with great interest, to the stories of his horse adventures at Camp Tahquitz.

Program Structure & Availability

This program is designed to fit into the existing Camp Tahquitz program. In morning are merit badge classes, and afternoons are Troop and Patrol Adventures.

- ✓ Morning Session: 8:00 am – 1:00 noon
- ✓ Afternoon Session: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

(The morning and afternoon sessions will share lunch at the stable areas.)

A scout may choose to enroll in the morning wrangler session or the afternoon wrangler session, depending on their interest and role in the troop. (NOTE: Older scouts, especially those in a troop leadership position, may be more interested in the morning wrangler session. This way they can stay with the troop during the Troop and Patrol adventure period. The older scouts can also earn merit badges through the independent study “Mentor” program. Please see Camp Guide book section “AD-Advancement” for more information on the Mentor badges).

Limited Enrollment

To ensure that all participants who participate in the Wrangler Program have a high-quality experience, participation is limited to 12 riders per session (e.g., 12 in the morning session and then 12 in the afternoon session).

Safety Restriction

Camp Tahquitz Wrangler Staff reserves the right to restrict any person from taking part in a horse-related activity who may pose, in their opinion, a safety risk to themselves, to others, or to the horses.

Ability of riders over 250 pounds to participate is dependent on the number of available horses that can carry riders of that size. For questions or additional information about the weight restrictions please be sure to email wrangler@camptahquitz.org.

Required Clothing

Anyone in the Tahquitz Stable area – both participants and visitors – are required to wear long pants and closed-toe shoes (no sandals).

All riders are required to have boots or hard soled shoes with a heel (this helps to avoid having a shoe slipping through and get caught in the stirrups.)

If there is a possibility of rain, bring rain gear. For chilly weather rides dress warm in layers.

The Wrangler staff are not allowed to allow any Scout or leader to ride if the rider is ill-prepared or dressed inappropriately.

Wrangler Award

The Wrangler Award is earned by completing a series of stable maintenance as well as learning horsemanship skills throughout the week. There are colored beads that accumulate throughout the week that are counted up and tabulated at the end of the week.

For demonstrated mastery of horsemanship skills.	
Blue	Name and point out parts of the horse.
Brown	Name and point out parts of the saddle and bridle.
Turquoise	Demonstrate the proper way to tie a horse securely.
Orange	Demonstrate the proper way to feed a horse a carrot.
Pink	Demonstrate the proper way to pick all 4 horse hoofs.
Red	Demonstrate the proper way to fully clean and brush a horse.
Yellow	Demonstrate the proper way to saddle a horse.
Tan	Demonstrate the proper way to feed a horse his hay allotment.
Purple	Demonstrate the proper way to bridle a horse.
Silver	Demonstrate the proper way for a rider to mount a horse.
Assisting with Stable Maintenance	
White	Paint fully one 10 ft section of ring or pasture fencing.
Black	Remove one wheelbarrow of horse manure and dispose of properly.

While you can earn your beads through showing that you have mastered the skill, you could also lose a bead. You may lose a bead if you demonstrate

- ✓ Lack of scout spirit;
- ✓ Failure to abide by all safety regulations (including wearing of helmets)
- ✓ Actions endangers fellow scouts, horses, or staff members.

Best Wrangler

Each week the wrangler staff will recognize a scout who has demonstrated not only improvement in their horsemanship skills, but who has also been the best example of scout spirit. They will be recognized with a plaque at the end of the week.

Merit Badges

If you have not completed the badge, throughout the week you will be able to complete requirements for the Horsemanship and/or Animal Science Merit Badge. Please speak with the Wrangler staff if you are interested in earning either of these badges during your week at camp.

Leader BBQ Ride

A special Wrangler event is the evening BBQ Steak Trail Ride, offered Monday through Thursday evenings. This will leave the Stable area at 5:00 pm and return by 8:00 pm./

Open to all leaders for only \$35, this is a great way to show your appreciation and say "Thanks" to your Scoutmaster and other adult leaders.

You may pre-register through the CampMaster Program, or (depending on availability) register through the Program Office when you arrive at camp.

NOTE: Like all Wrangler activities, this is dependent on weather and other safety conditions.

Helmets

A riding helmet will be provided by the camp, and all riders are required to wear the helmet whenever they are on a horse. It is important that helmet be worn correctly so that it has a proper fit.

Personal equipment

The camp will supply horses and safety equipment for participants.

Use of personal horses, or personal equestrian equipment (including helmets), are not allowed without written request sent at least two weeks prior to arrival at camp. The request will be reviewed by the Camp Director and the Lead Wrangler.

Leadership

Trail guides will be provided from the Camp Tahquitz Wrangler Staff.

While troops are not required to provide adult leadership, adult leaders who want to come to the stables and help out are always welcomed and appreciated.

Reservation

Reservations are made through the CampMaster program. We encourage you to register early, since the space is limited.

All registrations are pending until we receive the "**Wrangler Rider Information**" form. A copy is attached at the end of this guidebook, and is also available at CampMaster.

If a week is filled and there are no spots available, we will create a "waiting list" should there be any cancellations. However, to avoid giving any false hope, the waiting list will also be limited to 10 individuals.

Age Requirements

This is open to all registered Scout BSA members who are attending Camp Tahquitz with their troop. Registered leaders may also participate; however, priority will be given to youth members.

Cost

Due to the nature of this program, there is an additional program fee, payable through the troop's CampMaster account.

	Regular camp fee	Wrangler program Fee	Total camp fees
Patrol Dining – Scouts	\$374.00	\$87.00	\$461.00
Patrol Dining – Adults	\$200.00	\$97.00	\$297.00
Commissary Dining – Scouts	\$413.00	\$87.00	\$500.00
Commissary Dining - Adults	\$238.00	\$97.00	\$335.00

Reservations made through CampMaster are considered pending and are not final until the "Rider Information Form" is submitted and the program fee is paid

Cancellations and refunds policy

Partial refunds may be provided if, in the opinion of the wrangler, weather conditions make riding dangerous. The amount of the refund is dependent on how much program must be cancelled for weather-related events.

Since participation is limited, there are no refunds for no-shows or for cancellations (including failure to attend camp itself), nor are we able to provide refunds for participants who are excluded because they failed to follow directions, and/or who pose a danger to themselves, to others, or the horses.

Wrangler Program Schedule

This is an **example** of the type of program your scouts will experience during the Tahquitz Wrangler Program. There will be a program orientation for all riders on Sunday evening.

	Instruction topics	Hands on Demonstration	Riding
Monday Riding: 1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Helmets • Safety Rules • Review helmets and no running or yelling policy. • Parts of the horse, saddle, bridle, halter and lead rope. • Horsemanship I: "How do horses think." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to approach and lead a horse safely • How to tie the horse securely. • How to feed a horse hay • Horse Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Picking; ✓ Brushing; ✓ shoeing • How to care for tack • How to mounting and dismount • How to start, stop, and steer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet your horse! • "Horse Games" • Introduction to riding skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Walking; ✓ Trotting; ✓ Turning
Tuesday Riding: 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review. • Horsemanship II: "How do horses talk." • Horsemanship III: conformation, lameness, and unsoundness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care for saddle, blankets, bridle • How to feed a horse a carrot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena riding skills I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Walking; ✓ Trotting; ✓ Turning • Introduction to cantering • TRAIL RIDE: TAHQUITZ BACKWOODS! *
Wednesday Riding: 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review. • Horsemanship IV: "Ask your horse: what can we do for you?" • Horsemanship V: Wound care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colic – what is it and how to treat it • Dealing with a horse under duress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena riding skills II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Walking; ✓ Trotting; ✓ Turning • Introduction to Bridle Path • TRAIL RIDE: TAHQUITZ BACKWOODS! *
Thursday Riding: 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to deal with "problem horses" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena riding skills III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Competition • TRAIL RIDE: TAHQUITZ BACKWOODS! *
FRIDAY Riding: 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to deal with "problem riders" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodeo! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Skills Competition ✓ Bridle Path Races *

**All events, especially trail rides, are subject to weather and safety conditions.*

WRANGLER PROGRAM AT CAMP TAHQUITZ SUMMER CAMP

Rider Information Form

NOTE: This form is for all riders – scouts and leaders – and must be submitted to wrangler@camptahquitz.org. All reservations are classified as “pending” until this form is received. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

RIDER INFORMATION:

Name of rider: _____ Age at camp: _____
Troop # _____ Summer Camp Week: _____ Sex: M _____ F _____ Session desired: AM _____ PM _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

(In case we have questions for you before camp. If rider is a minor, please put parent/guardian information)

Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____
Phone number: _____ Type of phone (Cell/home/work): _____
For cell phones: I am willing to receive text messages on this phone and accept any data charges that my provider might charge: YES _____ NO _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

HORSE ASSIGNMENT

(Please answer completely and accurately; this information is needed so to make initial horse assignment)

Rider Height: _____ Rider Weight: _____ Hat (helmet) Size: _____
Ability of riders over 250 pounds to participate is dependent on the number of available horses that can carry riders of that size. For questions or additional information about the weight restrictions please be sure to email wrangler@camptahquitz.org.

BACKGROUND:

Briefly describe the rider’s goals/expectations for the program:

Briefly describe the rider’s horseback experience, if any
Never been on a horse: ___ A few trail rides ___ Some experience: ___ Experienced rider: ___
Any additional information regarding a rider’s experience, and/or any limitations:

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ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SUBMITTED A FULL, COMPLETED BSA MEDICAL FORM UPON ARRIVAL AT CAMP.

For camp use only: