

## OAKLAND COUNTY

## Several Oakland County groups host riding camps

Leave the cell phones and Internet behind and escape to a world of learning, friendship and fun.

Adventure for all ages begins at summer horse camps where programs range from horsemanship and riding safety to horse-keeping and equine anatomy.

### Hooked on Horses Camp

Get hooked on horses at Pretty Pony Pastures in Davisburg.

Golden Halflinger ponies welcome children ages 6 and up to learn about riding and caring for horses during the four-day camps scheduled from 14 p.m. daily.

The first week starts July 8 and the theme will be Safety First. The second week starts July 22 and will focus on Horse Health and Maintenance. The third week starts Aug. 5 and gets riders "Show Ready."

"Our campers will have a regular riding lesson plus hands-on activities," said Linda Watson, director.

The cost is \$150 per week. Visit [www.prettyponypastures.org](http://www.prettyponypastures.org) or call 248-634-7276.

### Summer Day Camp

All levels and abilities of riders from 6 to 15 years old are welcome at Rach Riding Academy at Miracle Ranch in Milford.

Camp is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 17-19.

"Come join us for some horsey fun," said Alysia Apley, special events manager.

"We'll have two ground lessons a day, one riding les-



Submitted photo

Little Carter Starr beams from ear to ear while perched on Mocha, a specially trained therapeutic horse at the Banbury Cross Summer Horse Camp in Oxford. Registrations for summer horse camps across Oakland County are starting now.

son and one craft and a small obstacle course."

Try vaulting, drill to music and playing games on horseback. Pack a lunch.

The cost is \$125 per child. Visit [www.RachRiding.com](http://www.RachRiding.com) or call 734-664-3609 or 586-242-7351.

### Haverhill Farm's Summer Horse Camp

Michigan's longest running riding school offers five two-week riding programs from mid-June until the end of August in White Lake Township.

"With an emphasis on safety, the program offers campers the opportunity to experience the joy and responsibilities of a relationship with a horse — a goal we have been committed to for over 40 years," said Carol Percha,

secretary.

English riding skills are taught with time for crafts, too. Two-week sessions are \$450. Call 248-887-2027 or visit [www.HaverhillFarms.com](http://www.HaverhillFarms.com).

### Girls Got It Camp

"This is a one of a kind program that is for girls age 8 to 16," said Mary McKiernan, owner. "We teach more than horsemanship — we focus on trust, self-esteem, patience and responsibility in a nurturing environment." Girls Got It Camp is scheduled Shenanigans Farm in Oxford for June 17-21 and July 21-26. The cost is \$375 per week.

Mini Camp for both boys and girls is July 8-10 and designed with half-days for little riders 5 to 8 years old.

Learn to groom, bathe and care for a pony. Mini Camp is \$140.

Call 248-628-6939 or visit [www.girls-got-it.vpweb.com](http://www.girls-got-it.vpweb.com)

### Smiles on Saddles Day Camp

Bring a big smile for one of three one-week camp sessions scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday July 29 through Aug. 2, Aug. 5-9 and Aug. 12-16 for children with special needs. Activities at O.A.T.S. in Clarkston include fishing, archery, arts and crafts and horseback riding. Bring a sack lunch and get ready to swim at the beach in the afternoon.

"We have three peddle boats, a volleyball court and a great boom box

for music and dancing," said Gretchen Hurlbert, a coordinator at O.A.T.S. (Offering Alternative Therapies with a Smile). "In addition to being a great program for the special needs community, it is an awesome way for our area youth to help and have fun while fulfilling their community service hours for church or school."

The cost is \$350 per week. Visit [www.oatshr.org](http://www.oatshr.org) or call 248-620-1775.

### Green Acres Farm Day Camp

Meet the resident animals including a potbelly pig, Holstein cow, barn cats, sheep and bunnies in Highland.

"All of our animals have been raised with lots of human interaction or bottle fed," said Kristy Green, owner of the farm. "Kids can learn about feeding and caring for farm animals and how to care for a vegetable garden."

The cost is \$200 per week for Monday through Thursday starting 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 17 running through August for kindergarten through fifth grade and preschool.

Call 248-889-8436 or visit [www.greenacresfarm-camp.com](http://www.greenacresfarm-camp.com) for more information.

### Wildwind Horse Camp

No couch potatoes allowed. Jump into the action in South Lyon with Level One for beginners from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting June 17 and \$350 per week.

Jump Camp is for more accomplished riders from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting June 17, July 18, July 29 and Aug. 5 for \$410 per week.

Tiny Tot Camp is for

ages 4 to 6 and offered from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday on June 24, July 15, July 29, Aug. 12 and Aug. 26 for \$240 per week.

"This is a sport that builds confidence," said Kim Maher, camp coordinator.

Visit [www.wildwind-stable.com](http://www.wildwind-stable.com) or call 248-486-7433.

### Summer Horse Camp

Leave the computers at home and head to a horsey camp with games, anatomy lessons and daily riding lessons.

Four Points Farm in Milford hosts a summer horse camp 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 24-28, July 15-19 and Aug. 12-16. \$325 per week. Visit [www.fourpointsfarm.com](http://www.fourpointsfarm.com) or call 248-245-5587 for details.

### Banbury Cross 5th Annual Summer Day Camp

In Oxford, get ready to ride at a horse camp geared towards children ages 3 and up with special needs.

Camp is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 12, 14 and 16.

"Campers will learn basic horsemanship skills, bathing and grooming and feeding," said Jessica Moore, program director. "There will be daily riding lessons, arts and crafts and team-building activities."

This is a PATH International program with certified instructors using specially trained therapeutic riding horses. Pack a lunch. Call 248-628-RIDE or visit [www.banburycrosstec.org](http://www.banburycrosstec.org).

Send horse or farm information, events or comments to [sharonlgreene@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonlgreene@hotmail.com).

### HORSIN' AROUND



SHARON GREENE