



Serendipity Equine **2023** **NEWSLETTER**

OUR SERVICE

Located in Amissville, VA, Serendipity Equine is a 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on nurturing educational and equine-assisted learning programs, while also addressing the increasing demand for equine rescue and rehabilitation services.

Programs Offered

- Horseback Riding
- Mounted Archery
- Liberty Horsemanship
- Working Equitation

2023 AT A GLANCE

Giving Thanks to Our Donors and Reflecting on the Past Year at Serendipity

It has been a while since we last connected, but we're thrilled to share some exciting updates with you. Take a look at our newsletter to see some of the amazing things we have accomplished at Serendipity. Despite the daily hustle, we are as busy as ever! As the year comes to a close, we are filled with gratitude for our donors. Your support has made our mission a reality, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This year was filled with ups and downs. Our team faced various challenges, but we also had moments of celebration and success. We have grown in numerous ways this year, and we are excited to see what the future holds as we head into 2024 with enthusiasm and optimism.

Thank You To Our Sponsors:



BENEFITS OF EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES

- Builds Confidence
- Reduces Stress
- Improves Emotional Awareness
- Promotes Healthy Relationships
- Improves Focus
- Promotes Physical Health
- Improves Self Esteem
- Builds Social Skills
- Instills Trust
- Learn Problem-Solving Skills
- And Many More!!



SO, WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Exciting Summer Activities at the Barn

Summer is the busiest season at the barn! In May, we welcomed a special group of visitors: Hero's Bridge. They were treated to a tour and demonstration of our Liberty Team and Mounted Archery Team's accomplishments. It was an honor to spend time with these heroes and show our appreciation for their service.

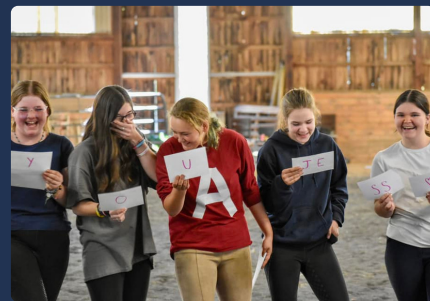
In addition, we received a thoughtful hay donation from Eric Gerber of Gainesville, Virginia. Thanks to his generosity, we received over 650 square bales of hay.

This required lots of volunteers, two trucks, two trailers, and two trips to transport. We filled our hay barn and stored the rest in the arena. We are grateful for Mr. Gerber's kindness and the volunteers who helped!

But wait, there's more! In June, we held Summer Youth Clinics for two weeks. One week was open to the community, and the other was reserved for CCLC students. During clinic week, we participated in the Amissville Fireman's Parade and won Best Equine Entry for the second year in a row! We also welcomed three beautiful OTTBs that were part of a seizure of over 100 mistreated and malnourished horses from a farm in the Shenandoah County area. This marked Serendipity's first partnership with equine rescues Hope's Legacy and Central Virginia Horse Rescue, and we hope to continue working together in the future. The girls have recovered and adapted well to their new surroundings. Two of them are ready for adoption – please contact Hope's Legacy for more information.



Our Schooling Showcases are always a great time! We held our 1st Annual Summer Showcase this year (our first evening show!), in addition to our Lucky Horseshoe in March & Spooktacular Showcase in October.



Summer 2023 Youth Internship Program

Five of our volunteer staff members have taken the initiative to learn and appreciate equine education and management through our internship program. The interns have been responsible for conducting health and wellness checks, administering topical preventatives, and providing injury care to the horses. Each intern was assigned a Capstone project, which included field enrichment activities, plant and garden enrichment containing herbs and grasses, sensory trail enhancement, and pond clean-up efforts. Their performance was so impressive that Serendipity has decided to extend the internship program into the school year, providing the interns with more time to research and document their findings. Be sure to stay tuned for more updates.



"You don't know teamwork until your partner is a 1200 lb. free spirit."
~ Unknown



TEAM SERENDIPITY



TEAM LIBERTY

Team Liberty has been busy this year! Currently in it's 8th season, the team has been working on building their skills and adding more tools to their training toolboxes. They worked hard on the fundraising side as well to earn their way to Lexington, KY last month for the International Liberty Horse Festival! We are looking forward to seeing them put what they learned to use in the 2024 Serendipity Schooling Showcases!



TEAM EQUINE ARCHERY

Team Equine Archery, also in it's 8th season, has been working hard as well this year. The team has grown, by both humans & horses. We have started 3 new horses in the program and they are making incredible progress, and welcomed 3 new teammates! The team participated in their first International Postal Match this fall! Our top archer in this match was Kai Smith, placing 14th ! Congratulations Kai & Team!

**TEAM SPONSORSHIP OPPURTUNITIES AVAILABLE!
EMAIL US TO LEARN MORE!
SERENDIPITYEQUINE@GMAIL.COM**



www.horsebackarchery.info



Making a Difference with HEARTS & HOOVES



Summer came and went, and school returned for our youth volunteers. Although Serendipity is for everyone, youth and adult alike, our volunteer staff for chore shifts consists primarily of local youths. Our youth volunteers and interns cover most of the shifts all summer long but the school year presents the difficult task of completing the morning chores. We also have several shifts that only have one youth volunteer. We love our youths but could really use more adult volunteers. If you'd like to learn more about the different ways you can get involved, or come by for a tour please email Serendipityequine@gmail.com for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



So much fundraising goes into maintaining the rescue organization but we don't only fundraise for operations. We held many fundraising events this past summer to raise funds for our sports teams, Team Liberty and Team Equine Archery. Our teams support many area youths with unique opportunities to bond, learn and heal using equines as partners. Much of what we do is focused on enhancing the lives of community members and youths at risk. Our Donors play a vital part in helping us achieve this mission. Serendipity participates in several large fundraising events each year. Give Local Piedmont is held the first Tuesday in May. This is a 24 hour campaign in which we raised \$4,250 this year! Thank you to all donors. With these funds we were able to complete a much needed gravel project around the barn & arena!

Save the Date! On Tuesday, November 28th, we will participate in Giving Tuesday, a global movement, celebrating the many ways you can give back to your community. If you would like to participate and keep up with all of the fun, please mark your calendar and make sure you follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for all of the latest updates and info!



Looking Ahead to 2024

Looking forward to 2024, we have a great year planned. Sports teams begin the winter season. All those currently enrolled are automatically signed up and billed per policy. If not currently enrolled and would like to sign-up for either Team Liberty or Team Equine Archery, please contact us by 12/15/2023 @ Serendipityequine@gmail.com



Stay tuned for some new programs coming in 2024! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with all of the fun things happening around the farm!



Two projects on our to-do list were completed this year, just in time for our participation in Rappahannock County Farm Tour this Fall! This was the first year we participated and we are excited to do it again in 2024! The beautiful sign, made by Shade Tree Metal Arts, was put up late summer! Thank you to the volunteers who made this happen! We had a local muralist, Layton Scarbrough, complete a mural of our logo on the side of the arena. This was the first phase of this project. The next phase will include adding more stars around the logo to display our amazing Sponsors and Donors! Want to see your name on the "Stars of Serendipity" wall?

2024 Sponsorship Opportunities are available now!

For more information, please email Serendipityequine@gmail.com

