4H Therapeutic Riding Program

★ ACEE is governed by a Board of volunteers and operates under the direction of the Allegan County MSU Extension office and 4H Council.

★ ACEE is supported by grants, donations, and fundraising. No tuition or fees are charged to the students.

★ ACEE relies on approximately 70-100 volunteers each year to serve as side walkers, horse leaders, groomers, Horse care providers and assistants.

★ Each of the horses used in the ACEE program must complete a rigorous evaluation by certified instructors to ensure suitability for the program.

★ Students are accepted based on their physician’s assessment and ACEE’s ability to accommodate their disability.

★ Students and families come together at the end of the year for an annual awards and recognition banquet.

★ The major expenses for ACEE include horse and facility usage, insurance and fees for our certified instructors.

Student applications are available at the Allegan County MSU Extension Office 269-673-0370 or web: msue.msu.edu/Allegan

Allegan County Exceptional Equestrians

Therapeutic Benefits of Horseback Riding

According to NARHA

★ Horseback riding improves posture, balance, coordination, strength and flexibility.

★ Horses give the youth a feeling of freedom and independence.

★ Riding is beneficial to those with impaired mobility. The rider seated on a horse is gently and rhythmically moved in a manner similar to human walking.

★ Because of the discipline and concentration required, this form of physical activity has proven to be of great benefit to those with mental disorders and particularly beneficial for autistic children.

★ Many psychologically challenged children and adults find a unique relationship with horses.

★ Physical activity and individual accomplishment can be psychologically uplifting and rewarding to the student and enhancing their self-esteem.

I Saw a Child

I saw a child, who couldn’t walk,
Sit on a horse, laugh and talk
Then ride it through a field of daisies
And yet he could not walk unaided.
I saw a child, no legs below,
Sit on a horse and make it go
Through woods of green
And places he had never been
To sit and stare
Except from a chair.

I saw a child who could only crawl
Mount a horse and sit up tall
Put it through degrees of paces
And laugh at the wonder in our faces.
I saw a child born into strife,
Take up and hold the reins of life
And that same child was heard to say,
Thank God for showing me the way…

John Anthony Davies

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, marital status or family status. Michigan State University U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and counties cooperating.
Comments from past Participants and Families

♥ “It was one of the few times in years that I saw her be part of the world just like any other young woman. She can’t do so many things that other young women do…such as dating, marriage, go off to college…but she sure looked great on that horse! And she did it herself! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

♥ “My daughter’s posture started to improve. This program built self confidence and motor skills and enjoyment at the same time.”

♥ “It gave my son something to look forward to! He seemed independent and less frustrated. What a wonderful program, I can’t thank you enough.”

♥ “I made so many friends!”

Sessions are held at
4-H Camp Kidwell
39000 - 1st Ave., Bloomingdale
269-521-3559
www.campkidwell.org

2011 Class Schedule

Tuesday & Thursday
TONKA Session -
6pm – 8pm @ Camp Kidwell
June 28th, 30th, July 5th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 19th & 21st
Regular Session –
6pm – 8pm @ Camp Kidwell
July 26th, 28th, August 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th & 18th

State Horse Show – Sunday, Mid August
Held in Lansing at the MSU Livestock Pavilion

Calendar of Events:

April 23, 2011 ACEE Beulah Blain Memorial Golf Scramble. Fundraising event held at the Lynx Golf Club in Otsego off of M-89.

May 7, 2011 Lauren Lane Kogge Memorial Fuzzy Fun Spring Benefit Horse Show at the Allegan County Fairgrounds in Allegan. Annually held the first Saturday in May.

October, 2011 Fall ACEE Recognition Banquet. Zimmerman Room of the Human Services Building, Allegan.

Volunteers are needed
- Side Walkers
- Horse Leaders
- Ring assistance
- Horse grooming
- Horse testing

Donations

Please make checks payable to ACEE and send to:
Allegan County MSU Extension
Human Services Building
3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 101
Allegan, MI  49010-9511

Ask us about our Equine Horse Sponsorship program

Wish List

- Helmets
- Saddles
- Stable Management Classroom
- Equine Feed
- Grooming Supplies
- Office Supplies
- Game/Theme Supplies
- T-Shirts for Students & Volunteers
- Printing Services

If you’d like to be a Student, Volunteer or Supporter/Donor please contact:

Jan Brinn, 4-H Extension Educator
MSU Extension Office
269-673-0370
brinn@msu.edu
www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan
Fax 269-673-7005