



# Sienna Ranch

3232 Deer Hill Road  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
[www.siennaranch.net](http://www.siennaranch.net)  
(925) 283-6311

## Job Posting Part-Time Equine/Riding Instructor

### ORGANIZATION

[Sienna Ranch](http://www.siennaranch.net) provides immersive nature programming, farm education and compelling outdoor experiences for youth pre-K to teens. Our program offerings include woodshop, natural building, archery, horseback riding, gardening, science, pottery, survival skills, homesteading skills, naturalist skills and much more. Sienna Ranch is situated on a 21-acre family-owned ranch in Lafayette, CA.

The Sienna Ranch Equine Program has a mission to inspire the youth to be responsible and educated equestrians. We aim to give kids a well-rounded knowledge of overall horse care and a solid foundation of equestrian skills. Our focus is to work with beginner riders in a “come as you are” culture (no fancy requirements here!) that allows entry level riders to build their confidence and learn introductory basics. Our goal is to give students the foundation they need to further their journey as budding equestrians.

### POSITION SUMMARY

The Riding Instructor works as part of a collaborative, supportive and professional team to offer riding lessons, horsemanship classes and seasonal camps to students and campers at Sienna Ranch. In addition this role will be responsible for assisting in general horse care and health. This position is responsible for creatively adapting and delivering dynamic riding curriculum to students ages 6-12 years old and adhering to the unique riding ethos and format developed at Sienna Ranch. Instructors will cultivate a sense of curiosity and discovery of the natural world through inquiry-based teaching, hands-on lessons, animal interactions, and natural horsemanship framework. This role reports directly to the Animal Care Manager and Equine Coordinator with oversight from the Operations Director.

### SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Non-exempt. Part-Time.

- **Weekly Schedule School Year: (mid August - mid May)**
  - Riding Instruction: approximately 12-20 hours per week, hours/shift schedule dependant on season/weather and lesson schedule
- **Seasonal Camps:**
  - Must work a minimum of 2 of the 4 seasonal (thanksgiving, winter, spring break) camps and 9 of the 11 summer camps (June-August)

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- As a riding instructor, your primary responsibilities are to provide lessons to students. You often work with both the horse and the rider to teach them skills and help them bond as a pair. Your duties include sharing technique and teaching riders how to communicate with their horses.
- Teaching general horsemanship principles & skills for our non-riding Horse Connection class
- Teaching students to ride in groups or individual lessons
- Working through behavioral issues (often for both horse and rider)
- Knowledge of
  - Horse feeding, grooming, and care
  - Health issues
  - Human and equine anatomy and physiology
  - Training and communication
  - Proper use of tack and equipment
- Support Animal Care Manager with turnout, grooming, and basic first aid
- Assist with Animal Feeding (as needed)

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- At least 2 years experience teaching safe and engaging beginner horseback riding lessons. Pony Club experience looked upon favorably within the past 5 years.
- Natural horsemanship background/approach.
- Ability to patiently and positively mentor youth from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages and experiences
- Willing to work outside in **all** weather
- Able to maintain clean, organized workspaces
- Ability to patiently and professionally communicate with parents, staff, volunteers, students and apprentices
- Committed to being an active part of a solution-oriented, self-motivated, cooperative, professional community atmosphere
- Able to work with minimal direct supervision and to independently hold yourself accountable to a high level of professionalism
- Lift up to 50lbs and maneuver hay bales.
- Able to check and respond to email communications within 24 business hours
- Current First Aid and CPR for Adult and Child certifications, Covid Vaccination, and clear TB test results (or ability to acquire before first day or work), and ability to pass FBI/DOJ background check for working with children

## **COMPENSATION**

- Hourly, Range:
  - \$ 19-21 depending on experience for all equine/lesson shifts
  - \$16.00 rate available for additional general animal care/feeding shifts if interested

*Sienna Ranch is dedicated to building a culturally diverse and pluralistic team committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment. We strongly encourage applications from people of color and other groups traditionally underrepresented in outdoor education.*

*We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.*