



2017-2018 GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS AT STRIDE AHEAD

New: the Girl Scout Brownie “Pets” badge! New High Award Projects!

Stride Ahead is looking forward to helping Girl Scouts from Daisy to Ambassador earn badges, Journey awards and Community Service Bars, and to carry out community service and Take Action projects. ***We can accommodate Girl Scouts who have a disability!*** For more information, please contact Stride Ahead’s Girl Scout liaison, Margaret Paschal, at paschalmargaret@gmail.com.

GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADORS AND SENIORS:

1. Community Service Bars - Girl Scouts age 14 and older are eligible to take training and serve as volunteers with Stride Ahead’s therapeutic riding program. Volunteers help special needs riders as side-walkers or horse-leaders, and with grooming and tacking their horses. No previous experience required! Click on “Volunteer” at www.strideahead.org for more information and a Volunteer Application; volunteer training sessions are held monthly. *At your training, be sure to tell the instructor you are working on the Community Service Bar so we can help you with the paperwork required by Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.*

2. Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action Project: Stride Ahead has a big one! Ambassadors and Seniors who have completed their Journey requirements and are beginning to explore different communities for their Take Action Project are invited to investigate the possibilities of building a cover for our wheel-chair accessible mounting block. We would really like to keep our riders who use a wheelchair dry while they mount and dismount! Contact Margaret Paschal at paschalmargaret@gmail.com for more information, or to discuss other projects.

GIRL SCOUT CADETTES

1. Cadettes can complete Step 3 of the **Animal Helpers** Skill-Building badge, “How animals help people emotionally,” by experiencing how horses and volunteers work together to help riders with special needs; they’ll also get tips on completing other Steps. One 90-minute **Saturday**

session, **\$3 per girl**. No charge for approved adult volunteers (you will need a minimum of two adults, one of whom is currently certified in first aid and CPR.) Contact Margaret Paschal at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to set up a date and time.

2. Earn your Cadette **Community Service Bar** as part of our “clean team” – cleaning saddles, bridles, helmets, grooming tools, and stalls. Training provided. **No charge!** Contact Margaret (above) to set up a training session.

3. Check out opportunities for **Silver Award Take Action Projects**; contact Margaret Paschal, above, to visit Little Creek Farm (home of Stride Ahead) and discuss needs related to the park’s natural environment and to the disability community.

GIRL SCOUT JUNIORS

1. Juniors can complete Steps 1 and 2 and the first half of Step 3 of the **Horseback Riding** badge (a Girls’ Choice badge.) *Stride Ahead is not able to provide the riding lessons required to complete Steps 4 and 5.* This will require a *minimum* of two, 2-hour **Saturday** sessions, with possible “homework” between sessions. Large groups may need a third session, to give everyone a hands-on experience grooming and tacking a horse.

- Juniors will learn through hands-on experience about horse safety, anatomy and behavior; different riding styles and the gear required; how to groom and tack (saddle and bridle) a horse; how to clean a stall; and how to lead and tie a horse.
- **COST: \$6.00 per girl per session.** Minimum 5 girls, maximum 10. Contact Margaret Paschal, at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to arrange sessions.

2. Check out opportunities for **Bronze Award Take Action Projects**: contact Margaret Paschal, paschalmargaret@gmail.com, for more information.

GIRL SCOUT BROWNIES

1. NEW! Girl Scout Brownies can **complete parts of all five Steps** of the Pets badge during two, two-hour sessions:

- From Step 1 – girls will learn what’s required to have a horse as a pet.
- From Step 2 – girls will learn how to “muck out” (clean) a stall and actually clean a stall each session; *to complete the step, they must return for a third stall-cleaning – no charge!*
- From Step 3 – girls will learn about and then groom a Stride Ahead horse.

- From Step 4 – girls will learn how horses use their bodies to communicate with people as well as other horses.
- From Step 5 – girls will learn how much it costs to feed a horse every month.

Work on the Pets badge during two, two-hour **Saturday** sessions. **COST: \$3.00 per girl per session.** Minimum 5 girls, maximum 14. No charge for approved Girl Scout volunteers with the group.

Contact Margaret Paschal, at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to arrange sessions.

2. Brownies who are working on the **Fair Play** Legacy badge can complete Step 2, "Include Everyone" by doing Choice 3, "Learn about disabilities and sports." Girls learn about therapeutic riding and how adaptive technology plus human support allow people with disabilities to enjoy the sport of horseback riding.

- One 90-minute **Saturday** session; COST **\$3** per girl (minimum 5 girls), no charge for approved Girl Scout volunteers with the group.
- Contact Margaret Paschal at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to reserve a session.

3. Earn the Senses Skill-Building badge, with a special emphasis on understanding disabilities:

- Complete all five Steps over two 90-minute sessions; in addition, Brownies will discover how they can include kids with a disability or other special need in their games and activities. COST **\$3** per girl per session (minimum 5 girls), no charge for approved Girl Scout volunteers with the group. (You will need 2 adults for the first 16 Girl Scout Brownies, plus an additional adult for every additional 8 girls or fewer.)
- Contact Margaret Paschal at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to reserve a session.

4. Service opportunities: Brownies who would like to help Little Creek Farm and Stride Ahead "take care" of our horses may talk to Barn Manager Joe Magnusson about an on-going service project – picking up sticks and branches in the pasture!

GIRL SCOUT DAISIES

Girl Scout Daisies can complete activities toward the **Red Robin Leadership Award**, from the *Three Cheers for Animals Leadership Journey*:

1. Sample Session 5, "Out and About With Animals," focuses on taking care of horses, from shelter to food to grooming (girls will get to groom a Stride Ahead horse) *and* how to take care of yourself around horses.

- This two-hour **Saturday** session covers activities which prepare girls to plan the Take Action Project for their Red Robin Award.
- COST: **\$3 per girl** (minimum 5 girls), no charge for approved Girl Scout volunteers with the group.
- Contact Margaret Paschal, at paschalmargaret@gmail.com for more information and to reserve one or more sessions (see below.)

2. Sample Session 6, “A Postcard Is Worth a Thousand Words” has a “horsey” theme; girls listen to a story, do a craft, and begin making their plans for a Take Action Project where they share what they’ve learned about caring for animals.

- One two-hour **Saturday** session; COST **\$3 per girl** (minimum 5 girls), no charge for approved Girl Scout volunteers with the group. (See above for details.)
- Contact Margaret Paschal, at paschalmargaret@gmail.com to reserve a session.

3. Service opportunities: Daisies who would like to help Little Creek Farm and Stride Ahead “take care” of our horses may talk to Barn Manager Joe Magnusson about an on-going service project – picking up sticks and branches in the pasture! **Daisies who are working on the *Between Earth and Sky Leadership Journey*** are also welcome to remove invasive plants such as privet from the Little Creek Farm property. (This is hard work!) Both of these projects would be a good follow-up to the Rosie Petal, “Make the world a better place” or the Sunny Petal, “Friendly and helpful.”

June 28, 2017