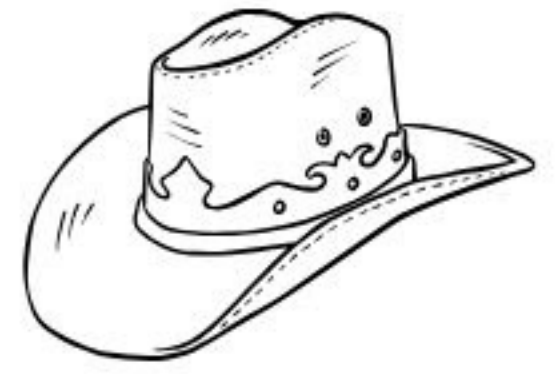




September Newsletter



Dust off your cowboy hats and pull on your boots because September has officially arrived at the ranch! This month is packed with major milestones, Western Hoedown excitement, and plenty of reasons to celebrate our incredible community.



Here's What is Happening on the Ranch!



Meet & Greet - Saturday, September 26, 2026 - 12PM

45th Anniversary Western Hoedown - Saturday, October 10, 2026 - 4:30-8:30

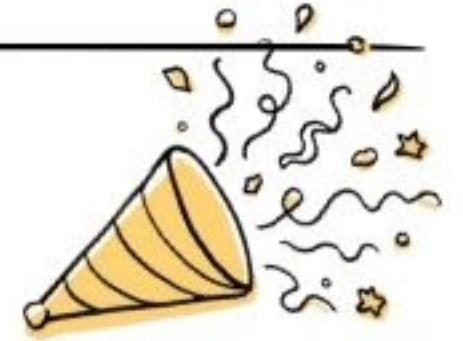
Meet & Greet - Saturday, October 17, 2026 - 12PM

Continuing Education - Saturday, October 17, 2026 - 3:30- 5 PM

Volunteer Orientation - Saturday, October 31, 2026 - 1-2:30 PM



Celebrating 45 Years of Impact!



Every milestone, every smile, and every breakthrough in our programs starts with a story and we want to hear yours. Our community is built on the incredible impact that our staff, volunteers, horses, and participants have on one another every single day. If this place has touched your heart or changed your life, we invite you to share your journey with us.

To celebrate your journeys, we are hosting a special contest to give away **5 pairs of upgraded tickets** to this year's Hoedown!

We are looking for the five most impactful stories from our community:

The Grand Prize: The most powerful story will receive free VIP tickets and the unique opportunity to take the stage and inspire our community live at the Hoedown!

Runner-Up Prizes: Four runner-ups will receive a free upgrade for their General Admission (GA) tickets.

Please take a moment to share your story of impact with us by **Friday, September 25th.**

Please tap the button below to share your story!

The Mane Event!

Y'all are invited to the biggest party of the year!

Our Annual Hoedown is just around the corner, and the ranch is buzzing with preparation.

Let's make this year's Western Hoedown our best one yet!

Ivey Ranch Park Presents the 45th Anniversary

Western Hoedown

Come to Enjoy:

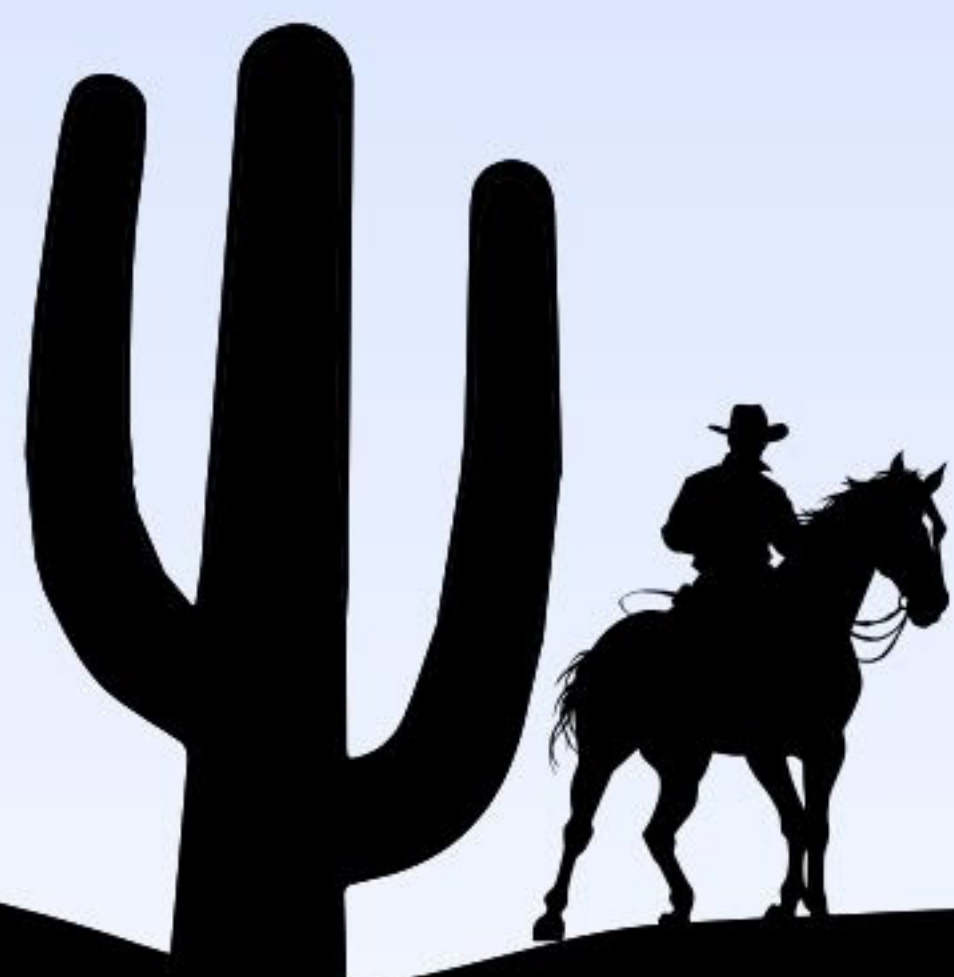
- ★ A Steakhouse BBQ
- ★ USMC Mounted Color Guard
- ★ Raffles & a Silent Auction
- ★ Equestrian Demonstrations
- ★ Hayride
- ★ Dunk Tank

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 10, 2026 - 4:30 PM TO 8:30 PM



**Scan for tickets
& Sponsoships**



Trotting into the Spotlight

Amylynn

Has been volunteering at the ranch for almost two years and has amassed a little over 300 hours of volunteering. She works primarily in lessons, but is happy to assist with any chore that needs doing! Her favorite part about volunteering is getting to know and work with the people and the horses. She has learned a lot while volunteering, and can now lead any horse with confidence. The gratitude from the students and the progress she sees and gets to be a part of keeps her coming back week after week. She especially loves any time she gets to spend with Ardmore, and appreciates that he is a horse that needs a lot of grooming with his long hair!



Ardmore

Sponsored by Nancy Russian-Rodriguez

A 25-year-old Gypsy Vanner, Ardmore joined the herd in February of 2024. Ardmore was imported from Ireland when he was a young horse, and is one of 3 of our program horses that have been on an airplane! Sturdy and strong, Ardmore is an excellent choice for many of our therapeutic riding students. He also has a huge following of fans who love brushing his long hair! Like all horses, Ardie always enjoys a treat (or two), but he really appreciates a really good scratch....even better if you have long nails!



Meet Laurie Crane-Schmelzer Secretary, Board of Directors and Volunteer

In 2011, I dropped off my then-11-year-old daughter for orientation. A year later, I decided to get involved and found myself at Volunteer Orientation, excited to spend time with her and learn more about horses. I was doing a lot here and there for the ranch and was honored to be asked to join the Board of Directors in 2013. I have been actively involved ever since!

As my daughter grew up at Ivey, I found myself documenting all of the amazing programs we offer by taking photos and sharing them on our social media accounts. This means you will find me at just about every event we have – Hoedown, Meet and Greet, summer camp – as well as documenting our everyday lives around the Ranch. My full-time job is at Cal State San Marcos, and Ivey has been part of my Super STEM Saturday event since we started in 2013, engaging visitors with activities about the health and wellness of horses and sharing how incredible equine therapy is.

Outside of serving as the Secretary on the Board, I am also a Lesson Aide, help with Barn Buddies, am part of a small team responsible for the barn cats, take care of our Free Little Library, and you may even find me up a ladder and pruning pepper trees! I also serve as the liaison to the San Diego Veterans Coalition and our military-affiliated community. What I love most is that I get to take a weekly break and ride with some of my favorite horses and great friends.

Instructor-In-Training, Volunteer Education Program

Interested in learning more about therapeutic/adaptive riding and becoming more confident around horses? Join us for a new 11-month Therapeutic/Adaptive Riding Education Series at Ivey Ranch! Meeting once a month for 1½ hours, each session will combine classroom learning with hands-on experience in and around the barn and arena. Designed for aspiring PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors (CTRI®), current and prospective volunteers, and anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of horses and therapeutic riding, the series will cover essential topics in horsemanship, safety, horse handling, adaptive riding, and working with riders with disabilities. Attend the full series or select individual sessions that interest you—no certification plans or previous professional experience required.

\$25 per session.

The full schedule, including all learning topics, is available on the website under Equine Programs/ Continuing Education.



Our community's stories are what make Ivey Ranch so special, and we would be honored if you would share yours. If Ivey Ranch has made a difference in your life or your family's journey, please consider leaving a review on [Great Nonprofits](#). Your words help others learn about the impact of our programs and give Ivey Ranch the recognition it truly deserves.

Personal stories, heartfelt experiences, and meaningful moments all help bring attention to the difference being made every day.

Tap the link below to leave your review and help us continue spreading the love and the mission.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

A planned gift is a meaningful way to make a lasting impact while reflecting your personal values and commitment to Ivey Ranch's mission. There are several ways to include Ivey Ranch in your estate plans including:

A bequest through your will or living trust

Naming Ivey Ranch as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or financial account

Establishing a charitable remainder trust

Other charitable planned giving options

Depending on your individual circumstances, certain planned gifts may offer tax advantages or provide income benefits. We encourage you to consult with your attorney, financial advisor, or tax professional to determine which option is right for you.



Company Match Program

Double your impact today. Many employers offer matching gift programs that can double - or even triple - the impact of your donation to Ivey Ranch. Check with your Human Resources department to see if your employer matches charitable gifts. It's a simple way to make your generosity go even further and create an even greater impact in our community.

How It Works

Ask your employer: Talk to your HR department or search your employee portal.

Submit your receipt: Fill out a quick form after you make a gift.

Double the support: Your company sends an extra donation to help our mission.