

ELLIS HOUSE & EQUESTRIAN CENTER OFFERS LESSONS, TOURS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2019

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Ellis House & Equestrian Center is located at Bakers Wood Forest Preserve, 13986 McKanna Road in Minooka (815/475-4035). Owned and operated by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, it offers riding lessons (training in beginner balanced seat riding and horsemanship, and both English & Western riding styles), tours and special events. It is open from 9 AM to 5 PM daily throughout the summer.

The focus of its programs is to “connect environmental stewardship with... equestrian, educational and recreational opportunities,” by providing fun activities through programming which introduces horses and their environment to visitor of all ages. Facility rentals, open arena times and fees, hay sales and special events (especially weddings) held at the beautiful Ellis estate supplement the programs.

In addition to the house, facilities include an eight stall barn with tack room and wash stall attached to an indoor riding arena. There is also a large outdoor riding arena with five acres of fenced-in pasture.

A year round staff of Farm Manager, Wedding & Rental Manager, an Equestrian Program Coordinator and several Instructors are on hand to serve guests. Eight horses live at the Farm (CANDYMAN, a Paint who is pleasant and patient and offers an easy and relaxing ride; MISTY, a Quarter Horse, who is a trusted horse at the heart of the lesson program;



WILLIE, a Thoroughbred that although is a breed noted for racing, prefers to walk and is thus a great horse for beginners; KASH, a Paint Gelding, is the newest horse at Ellis, extremely sweet and a favorite of many of the students; HEIDI, a Haflinger, came to Ellis as part of the Sunrise Center North Therapeutic Riding program. Very strong with smaller stature, she is appealing to many riders, but can carry larger riders too and is, surprisingly, one of the most gentle horses in the barn; RHINESTONE, a Paint, also came to Ellis with the Therapeutic Riding program and is very talented with the ability to slow down and offer a jog and lope and accommodate more advanced riders as well; NEMO, a Paint, also from the Therapeutic Riding program, was used in the English circuit prior to joining Ellis; a gentle giant, he is named for his unique markings that resemble a fish; SUZY, a Thoroughbred is a beautiful horse that is currently undergoing a course in riding with promise of becoming utilized in programs of the future.

Summer Camps are available for children entering grades 1 through 9. There are both half and full day camps. New Camps this year include “Awesome Art” (June 24-28 , 9 AM to noon) with creative activities and exploration of woods, prairies and creeks at Hoover Forest Preserve for kids entering Grades 1 – 3 and “On the Road Again” (June 17 – 21, 9 AM to 2:30 PM for Grades 4-6) which features trips to area parks and nature centers.

Ongoing summer 2019 camps for Ages 1-3 are “Eric Carle’s Friends” (MWF June 24-28, 9 – 10:30 AM and “Going Buggy” (MWF July 22-26, 9 – 10:30 AM), both of which are a first nature camp experience with attendance required of a caregiver.

For those age 4 through entering Kindergarten, choose “Wonders of Water” (June 10-14 or July 15-19) or “Hopping Through Habitats” (June 24-28 or July 22-26), both 9 AM to Noon. For those entering Grades 1-3, “Rain Drops to Rivers” (June 10-14, July 8-12), “Creep, Crawl & Climb” (June 24-28, July 15-19); Grades 4-6, “Forests, Fungi & Flowers” (June 10-14, July 15-19); “Become an Ologist” (July 8-12, 29 – Aug 2); all from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. For Grades 7-9, “Nature Quest” (July 8-12, includes an overnight campout).

Inquire about dates for Equestrian Camps (a one day Pony Camp for ages 3-5 with parents and one and three day Pony Camps for Ages 6-8 and 9-13), all from 9 AM to 1 PM.