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JUNE 2025

events

Bear Creek Stables

Outdoor Learning and Exploring Rachael Parakh, Peggy Kauffman, and Anita Enander

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, volunteers from Friends of Bear Creek Stables readied an information table with postcards, sign-up sheets, and fliers. As part of our fundraising campaign, we greeted the public at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve and described the diverse educational programs we plan to offer at the stables. Our vision includes programs such as docent-led nature walks, journaling, painting, school and senior group field trips, teen volunteering, equine therapy, small animal co-ops, lectures on environmental sustainability, and more. The park visitors that stopped by were enthusiastic at the prospect of having a new part of the preserve open for learning about nature, horses, history, and communing with like-minded people.

On this afternoon, a father and son approached the table. Our volunteers explained that three horses would be coming up to the table from the stables nestled in the preserve. When we asked the boy if he had seen a horse before, he answered "Yes!" After thinking for a few moments, he added, "But only in books."

Friends of Bear Creek Stables hopes to change that. We want to offer real-world experiences for people of all ages,



Audrey Palmer, boarder at Bear Creek Stables, introduced her horse, Harley, to Jim and his son, Albert. Albert was eager to feed Harley a slice of apple.



abilities, and economic levels. We intend to offer outdoor learning and exploring opportunities with hands-on nature and animal interactions.

Just as the volunteers promised, the three horses emerged from the forested trail. Excitement and awe filled the air as hikers realized they had a unique opportunity to be close to these horses. They quickly formed a line to meet each horse, brush their manes, ask questions, and take photographs to show their friends and family.

You, too, can meet horses during our next events at Bear Creek Preserve's Alma parking area on **Sunday, June**

8 and Sunday, June 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Stable Tours: See the Potential. To help the public envision the potential for this education center, we invite you to tour the stables. Only 15 minutes from San Jose, the stables feel like a world away from the stress of modern life. To arrange a tour, RSVP to friendsofbearcreekstables@gmail.com. Tours run hourly from 2 to 5 p.m. on select weekend dates. Your confirmation will include the stable address and parking directions.

Fundraising. Friends of Bear Creek Stables is excited to partner with Midpen to establish this new facility, but we need to raise \$250,000 by **June 6**. For more information or to donate, go to friendsofbearcreekstables.org, or mail a check payable to Friends of Bear Creek Stables, P.O. Box 546, Redwood Estates, CA 95044. Donations are tax-deductible. Friends of Bear Creek Stables is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, Tax ID #46-5553300.

**Photos by
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