



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

July 2025

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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The Saddle Light Center is a non-profit corporation created in 1991 to help disabled people reach their full potential.

Our mission is to provide equestrian therapy for children, teenagers and adults with neurological, orthopedic, learning, emotional or other disabilities.

Our goal is to inspire our riders to accomplishments previously considered beyond their capabilities.

Thank you to all who came to our Rider Showcase!



Our **Rider Showcase on May 10** was a wonderful success! We were proud to feature **13 incredible riders**, each demonstrating to their families and friends the progress they've made through hard work, dedication, and consistency. The weather was perfect, and we were thrilled to have the **Alhambra Alamo Caravan No. 269** on-site, preparing a delicious BBQ right from their smoker. We also had cold drinks, fresh fruit, and snacks for everyone to enjoy. And, because it was Mother's Day weekend, roses were given to all the moms in attendance. It was truly a great day at SLC—full of celebration, community, and heartfelt moments!

What's Going on Around the Barn?

Welcome to our newest addition, Coco!

SLC welcomed Coco to the herd in early 2025. She is a Grade Pony, which means her breeding is unknown or undocumented. SLC does not require any specific breed for a pony to be part of the programs, so Coco was welcomed with open arms.

Coco came to SLC from the the owner of Retama Equestrian Center, Rene. She also has land in LaVernia and her neighbor had Coco and was using her to give the grandchildren pony rides. After Coco's horse companion passed away she became very depressed and lonely, so the neighbor brought Coco over to Rene's place to have companionship of Rene's horses. Rene heard that we were needing another pony, so she thought Coco would be a good fit with our herd and activities, and she was right!



Saddle Light Center has been recognized as an EQUUS Foundation 2025 Guardian

The Guardian Seal of Transparency is awarded annually and is a recognition of an organization's commitment to transparency and accountability by its willingness to make comprehensive data about their programs, horse care practices, and governance available for public scrutiny. Only those organizations that receive the 2025 EQUUS Foundation Guardian designation are eligible to receive financial support in 2025 from the EQUUS Foundation. We are proud to earn this designation as it speaks to the level of care we are dedicated to providing our equine partners.



Thank You, Salata Selma!

We are incredibly grateful to the new Salata restaurant in Selma for their generous support of the Saddle Light Center! On their grand opening day, they donated 10% of their sales to SLC and kindly allowed us to set up a table to showcase our mission and recruit new volunteers.

A huge thank you to our volunteers and families who came out to dine and show their support—we truly appreciate you!



We're Back on Facebook & Instagram—And We Need Your Help!

We're excited to share that SLC is active again on Facebook and Instagram—and we'd love for you to be part of it! If you have any photos, video clips, testimonials, or other content that highlights your experience at SLC, please contact Claudia at volcoor@sbcglobal.net to learn how to share your materials for possible posting on our social media pages.

Be sure to follow us, like our posts, and stay updated on what's happening at the Saddle Light Center! Your engagement helps us spread awareness about our mission and the amazing work being done every day.



From the Volunteer Corner

The second quarter of the year has been a very busy and productive one for our volunteer program! We've held three volunteer training courses, welcoming many new faces who are eager to serve and learn more about horses and equine therapy. Several of them bring prior horse experience, which has been a wonderful addition to our team. This quarter alone, Kerstin has already hosted two Horse Handler Trainings, helping us grow the number of qualified Horse Handlers—an essential role for our therapy sessions and lessons. A big thank you to all our amazing volunteers—both new and long-standing! You are a vital part of the Saddle Light Center, and we couldn't do it without you.

We also had the pleasure of hosting several volunteer groups who dedicated their time and effort to improving our facilities. Special thanks to:

- **UTSA Students**
- **Trinity University Spurs Sorority**
- **Grace Community Church**
- **Zachry Construction**
- **Central Catholic High School**

In total, we welcomed more than 80 wonderful volunteers from these groups—thank you for making a difference!



Next Volunteer Training: Saturday, July 12th from 10am to 1pm

Honor someone in your life with a gift to SLC

If you would like to make a donation in honor of someone this holiday season, you can order through our website at <https://thesaddlelightcenter.com/how-to-help/honorary-gift-program/> and they will receive a card notifying them of your gift (we can send cards from an anonymous giver if desired). Please allow at least a week for delivery. All gifts benefit our program.



We're looking for dedicated and committed volunteers for a not so ordinary volunteer opportunity!

...working with the Saddle Light horses and the children who benefit from equestrian therapy!

We need over 120 volunteers each week to provide chores such as rider assistance by spotting, sidewalking, or horse leading, and horse care and barn chores. We also have opportunities for groups that want to fulfill a specific service project (great for church groups, college clubs, work teams and more).

Volunteer hours are from 3 pm to 9 pm Monday through Friday. Most volunteers sign up for either a 3:00 to 6:00 shift or 6:00 to 9:00. We also need volunteers to assist with barn chores on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. Contact us for more info—(210) 651-9574 or volcoor@sbcglobal.net.

No experience necessary! We will teach you what you need to know.



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**Free Matter
for the Blind
&
Disabled**