



# BOK RANCH

The Peninsula's ONLY \*PATH Premier Accredited Therapeutic Riding Program

## School-to-Work Vocational Program

*Preparing Young Adults with Special Needs for Post School Life*

Ask any parent what they want for their child and the answer is always the same...*Happiness and a Fulfilled Life*



A job can provide a sense of pride, accomplishment and fulfillment. For parents of teens and young adults with special needs, finding the right job or simply knowing what that job might be is not easy.

Most high schools emphasize college preparation rather than actual workforce readiness. B.O.K. Ranch's

School-to-Work program offers a bridge between the traditional school environment and the "next step" in life. Our experienced mentors support and identify participant's strengths, interests, abilities and encourage setting specific goals and objectives.

This program is similar to typical vocational programs but with a twist. There are no windowless cubicles or boring, repetitive tasks. This program isn't designed to prepare participants for a career in the equine industry. Instead, the beautiful natural setting of the B.O.K. Ranch allows participants to gain an

understanding of themselves, their abilities, their interests, and their values. They gain an understanding of the world of work and acquire effective decision-making skills that lead to making realistic and informed decisions about work.

Taking care of the horses, following step by step instructions and following through to the end of the task builds a sense of responsibility and promotes team work.

Working in B.O.K. Ranch's richly supportive equine based environment, provides the skills (or a plan for gaining them) needed to succeed in the workplace. This makes it possible to reach the goal of a *happy and fulfilled life*.

**For more information about the School-to-Work Program call 650-366-2265**

Fall 2016

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# Letter From The Director

Dear BOK Ranch Friends and Family,

Everyone had a terrific time at Summer Camp again this year! We welcomed about 140 campers, ages 4—16, to learn about and experience the wonderful world of horses. On the last day of each camp, the campers' parents arrived early to watch the campers show off the equestrian skills they



learned during the week. The campers' little faces beamed with pride at the enthusiastic applause they received from the audience.

Since 1985, BOK Ranch's commitment has been to provide the highest quality lessons and support the needs of each rider in achieving his or her goals. We listen to our community to create and adapt programs to meet those needs. Parents told us that their children in their late teens and early twenties have limited options when it comes to learning basic skills for life once they leave school. After some detailed research and planning we've launched

our new **School-To-Work Vocational Program** (see front page for details). Skills that are essential in the workplace such as time management, following directions, communicating appropriately and working as a member of a team are practiced on a daily basis. Call the office at **650-366-2265** for more information on the program.

In other news, I want to say THANK YOU to the very talented **Caroline Mersch**. She has delighted our eyes with her painting of a fanciful flower garden on our sculpture horse "Marshmallow". She did a fantastic job and I know we all look forward to enjoying her artwork for many years to come.

Happy Trails, *Tish*

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## Parent-Instructor Conferences

When first joining the BOK Ranch lesson program, each rider has specific goals that we define by consulting with his or her parents, therapists, and the riders themselves.

Transparency, communication, and collaboration have been characteristics of the "BOK Style" for many years. About three years ago, we took this one step further with the addition of Parent/Rider Conferences.

The first week of September, our instructors contacted each parent/rider to discuss goals, objectives, and to make an action plan. Instructors discussed the progress of the riders by using specific examples and made suggestions on what could be improved.

Parents/riders were given the opportunity to give their perspective on the rider's strengths, needs and learning styles. At BOK we believe that family involvement and shared responsibility lead to positive benefits for all participants.

Our instructors' experience developing lesson plans and adapting teaching techniques provides each rider with a meaningful equine based experience. It is an added bonus to invite the riders and their parents into the planning process and to share responsibility in supporting the rider's success. Crucial information is gained when riders are given the opportunity to direct their own lesson plan. For instance, we want to know if a rider loves riding English or Western style or wants to try vaulting. We always get great feedback about riding on the trail too.

**Thanks for your support!**

## BOK Ranch Website & Volunteer Dedication

BOK Ranch would like to give credit where credit is due. Recently BOK Ranch launched a **new website** with a fresh and streamlined look. This couldn't have been possible without the help of BOK Ranch's web master, **Ms. Jamie Morris**.



Jamie's history with BOK Ranch began more than 20 years ago when she was a teenager. Jamie volunteered on Saturdays as a leader and side walker and developed a strong bond with one of the program's original Fjords, PJ. This photo shows she also used her sewing talents to create Halloween costumes for the horses. Jamie donated her babysitting money to help support PJ's daily costs, vowing that one day he would be hers.

Years went by and Jamie moved away to Colorado. When it was time for PJ to retire, Jamie was our first call. She sent a horse shipper to Woodside, California to pick him up and had him delivered to her farm in Colorado. PJ was able to comfortably live out his days in the lap of luxury. Even though Jamie has since moved from Colorado and PJ has crossed over the rainbow bridge, she continues her life long dedication to BOK Ranch. She communicates with the office on a regular basis and updates our website whenever needed. We are truly appreciative for all she has done for us. It is because of her support that thousands of online visitors have learned about the BOK Ranch. ***Thank You Jamie!***

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## Arena Update

Hip-Hip Horary! We can finally say we have a level, flat, comfortable, and safe riding surface.



Thanks to generous grants made by the Bothin Foundation, the Wells Fargo Foundation and



several individual donors, the BOK Ranch was able to rebuild the large therapeutic riding arena and add a new second arena.

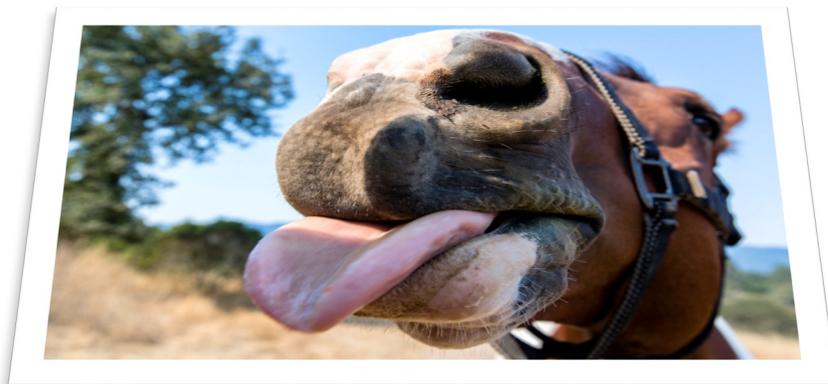


**BOK Ranch**  
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Woodside, CA 94062

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## 2017 BOK Ranch Calendars!

This year's BOK calendar is dedicated to our hilarious horsey bloopers! Available for purchase at the barn **NOW**.



***CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK ONLINE***

[www.bokranch.org](http://www.bokranch.org)

## Contact Us

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