

# Planning your Birthday Party

Birthday parties are divided into three groups, either at random by staff or ahead of time by the party planners. Groups rotate through three stations, which last about 35-40 minutes each. Choose your three groups out of the following list!

**Riding:** Kids have their own horse, and learn the basics of riding out in the big arena. Depending on the weather and age/skill level of riders, they may also have the option of going for a trail ride or riding bareback. *(SSH will need a signed release from parents for any kids participating in this station.)*

**Horse Shoe Picture Frames:** Each kid makes a hanging picture frame out of a real horse shoe as a special way to remember the day.

**Horse Beauty Pageant:** Groups have a horse decorating contest using barrettes, ribbons and hoof glitter to wow parent judges. Groups can either collaborate on one horse and compete against the other two groups, or divide into two groups and compete against each other. Kids pose with their horses for pictures in the last few minutes of this station.

**Horse Treat-Making and Feeding:** Kids put their culinary skills to the test by following a horse treat recipe, then sharing the treats with their favorite horses around the barn. Safe hand-feeding skills are taught and practiced while giving the treats.

**Barn Scavenger Hunt:** Groups divide into two teams and try their luck at a scavenger hunt for items and animals around the barn.

**Caring for Horses:** Kids learn the basics of caring for horses by grooming, feeding and cleaning a stall in this hands-on, educational station.

**Horse Painting / Bathing (weather permitting):** Each group uses a horse as a painting canvas in this station. Kids use hands or paint brushes with non-toxic, washable paint and let their imaginations run wild. In the last 15 minutes of this station, kids pose with their horse for pictures, then learn to bathe horses by cleaning the previous group's painted horse.

**Other info:** Cake / Present time is typically held after the planned activities, and can be outside, in the barn or in the classroom. Parents can also choose to do cake/presents at a different location. Further options to personalize the party include (but are not limited to) decorating the barn/classroom, making the kids' name tags and making prize bags for Pageant or Scavenger Hunt winners.