



2023 PEAK TRAINING CHALLENGE PACKET

FACING THE CHALLENGE. FACING FORWARD.

MISSION STATEMENT

To rescue takes passion. To imagine a better world takes courage. Every day, we choose to keep our eyes, minds, and gates open to what's possible for the betterment of horses everywhere. Because, simply said, the status quo is no longer an option. **We are Colorado Horse Rescue**, and we believe that it's up to us — all of us — to create new traditions honoring horses, humans, and the partnership we share.

TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

Here at Colorado Horse Rescue (CHR), we find pride in the various behind-the-scenes aspects of taking care of our herd. From the meticulous daily care of our equines to the sometimes-intensive medical rehabilitation they receive, every necessary component of our routine must work together in order to help us create a safe, stable environment for the horses we serve. In all the ways we support these extraordinary creatures, you will see a few basic philosophies religiously represented: fairness, consistency, and out-of-the-box thinking. If this is your training philosophy, you are considered a strong candidate for the PEAK Training Challenge.

NOTE: No CHR volunteers or staff are allowed to be trainer participants.



ABOUT THE HORSES

These amazing horses between the ages of three and eleven have been only lightly handled. Predominantly QH breeding with good minds, they have demonstrated substantial training ability and are sound, healthy, and ready for a partnership with you.

INCENTIVES

- \$10,000 cash prize pool
- \$500 “WOW” Moment cash prize bonus for one participant
- Limited to 5 trainers - guaranteed winnings for each participant
- Weekly exposure through CHR’s multi-channel marketing (11,000+ subscribers) for you and your training business throughout the duration of the challenge
- Custom CHR merchandise for all participants
- Potential client referrals via public event setting
- Share your talents with horses in need
- Build a community network
- Have fun!

APPLICATION AND TRAINING PROCESS

1. **Application Deadline** is Saturday, January 28th, 2023. All applications submitted will be reviewed by CHR Head Trainer, Sarah Hofkamp, and supporting staff for compatibility with our mission and the goals of the PEAK Training Challenge.
2. We will **contact your references**, review your application videos, and conduct a phone interview with you.



3. If you qualify, we will schedule **group or individual working interviews** at Colorado Horse Rescue. We will ask you to work with one or two of our own horses in this exercise:
 - Demonstrate use and understanding of round pen work.
 - Catch/halter a horse with limited handling.
 - Discuss your philosophy of training.
 - Saddle/bridle/ride a horse at walk/trot/canter.
4. **Notification of Acceptance** will occur via email and/or phone call on Sunday, February 12th, 2023.
5. **Horse Selection Day Ceremony and Pickup** will take place on Sunday, February 19th, 2023 at 12pm. During the ceremony, we will determine the order of horse selection and introduce you to the PEAK Training Challenge pool of horses. You are encouraged to take your horse home this same day. Otherwise, trainers will have until Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 to return for pickup of their selected horse.
6. Trainers will **submit video updates** to CHR staff twice a month to track progress throughout the 100-day challenge.
7. **PEAK Challenge Competition Day** will be a public event held on Sunday, June 4th, 2023 where trainers will showcase their progress while CHR staff tracks interest in participating horses for possible adoption. See Competition Day Specifications below.

COMPETITION DAY SPECIFICATIONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2023 | 10AM - 2PM

1. **Trainer and Horse Introduction:** Each trainer will bring their horse into the outdoor arena and introduce themselves and their horse to the audience. Trainers will describe what they have been working on, the personality of their horse, training specifications, and the recommended



experience level of adopter as well as discipline/continued training options for their respective horse.

2. **Groundwork and Obstacle Course:** All but one competitor will leave the arena, and the groundwork/obstacle course challenge begins with one loose horse and one trainer in the outdoor arena. A pre-selected pattern will be provided to the trainers prior to starting in the arena. Trainers should anticipate a numbered course with obstacles and a trailer being present in the arena. Trainers will complete the following as a part of this segment immediately prior to starting the course:
 - Catch and halter their loose horse.
 - Ground tie within a designated circle for grooming/tacking.
 - Warm the horse up on a lunge line.
 - Mount the horse.
3. **BREAK:** Take a break after the obstacle element to prepare your horse for the freestyle.
4. **Freestyle:** Each participant shall complete a freestyle routine of any discipline, with or without music, for a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.
5. **BREAK:** Judges will be sequestered to the CHR office to assign competitor placements and designate the WOW moment bonus to one participant.
6. **Presentation of Awards:** Awards shall include a plaque for 1st – 3rd as well as cash prizes for all, individually dependent on placement and receipt of WOW Moment Bonus.

QUESTIONS? Reach out to Sharon Gilbert at sgilbert@chr.org.