



## **Summer Internship Opportunity**

**Learn about breeding, horsemanship, equine tourism, and running a ranch while spending your time in the Rocky Mountains this summer!**

Rocking Heart Ranch (RHR) is looking for an intern to work with the Garner family from April 21- August 31, 2025, where you will be immersed in the day-to-day operations of this diversified ranch. RHR provides a wide array of services that you would learn about including equine tourism, trail riding, colt starting, horsemanship, foaling, breeding, and hosting unique events (clinics, weddings, and large groups.) The ranch runs a fairly large breeding operation with 25+ mares, four stallions, and has over 80 horses in total that range in age from weanling to twenty years old. In addition, we have RHR Romance which is a ranch style venue for weddings, as well as a large indoor riding arena, and natural equine trail obstacle course. The “Ride N’ Relax” is a facility where horse owners can stay and camp with their horses and ride Waterton Lakes National Park.

### **Internship Description**

The RHR Ranch Hand (Intern) will report and be mentored directly by one of the owners of the ranch. Further mentorship and coaching will come from the Ranch Foreman as well as from the various clinicians that visit the ranch. Hours of work will be 40-45 hours per week and will vary depending on time of year and needs of ranch. For example, during foaling season (April/June) the hours will include some nighttime checks. Typically, hours will be from 9am-6pm or 10am-7pm daily with two days off throughout the week. Weekend work is REQUIRED, and days off will be midweek.

### **Internship Benefits**

As an intern, you will have the following benefits provided to you.

- Outside Board for one horse- an outside pen will be provided for your horse and will include access to hay and water.
- Lodging and Board provided- a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer with full services is provided for lodging. Food will be provided by the ranch for you to utilize and prepare yourself.
- Arena Use- free use of the arena (when not in use) for your own enjoyment including obstacles and cattle (when available)
- Participation in clinics- you will be able to participate and/or audit the following clinics with a ranch horse: J.P Forget (May), Kade Mills (June), Confident Cowgirls (July) and ProHorse Training (August), after your daily duties are completed. Participation free of charge may also be arranged if available for you and your own horse.
- Waterton Lakes National Park Pass- a pass to give you access to the park free of charge will be available.
- Access to kayaks & stand-up paddle board for exploring the river and Waterton area.
- Letter of reference/recommendation (depending on performance)
- Mentorship from the team including weekly sessions with the Owner.
- Honorarium of up to \$3,000 at the end of the term

### **Internship Duties**

The internship will provide a wealth of experience in a multitude of areas but will include the following specific duties.

- Horse Herd
  - Assisting with feeding and maintenance of the herd. Example: putting on hay nets, helping deworm, holding for farriers. Etc.
  - Conducting foaling checks during (April-June). This will include late night checks during the middle of the night and assisting the team with any challenging deliveries.
  - Turning horses in/out after riding or for feeding
  - Moving horses to breeding pastures (this would be done in conjunction with the team)
- Horsemanship
  - Exercising broke horses to keep them in shape.
  - Assisting the Owners by helping saddle/unsaddle, warm up, or lead horses being started.
- Customer Relations
  - Guiding guests on rides on the ranch property and through the natural trail course on horseback.
  - Registering and checking in people at the Ride N' Relax
  - Riding with guests on the front range and helping them find their way to certain trail heads.
- Ranch Maintenance
  - Helping set up for unique events like weddings, clinics.
  - Assisting the Ranch Foreman with jobs like fencing, mending hay nets, cleaning stalls, weighing hay out
- Marketing/Communications
  - Videoing and creating content for the sale of the horses and promotion of the ranch.
  - Photography- taking pictures of special events including clinics for promotion of the ranch.
- Administration
  - Assisting the owner with paperwork related to the horse herd, this could include registrations.
  - Confirming registrations in clinics and for stays at the Ride N' Relax
  - Coordinating any catering requirements for special events.

### **Skill Development**

The following skills will be developed during your time at RHR.

- Technical skills.
  - Horsemanship- learning more about how to interact with horses in a positive way including riding, training, and taking care of.
  - Herd Management- how to track a herd and monitor its health.
- Adaptability- learning how to be flexible when situations arise that are unpredictable and change needs to occur.
- Collaboration- learning to work with a larger team to meet end results which will include taking lead on a task/project during the internship.
- Communication- learning how to communicate with different audiences as well as utilizing a variety of tools to deliver messaging.
- Creativity and Innovation- learning how to look for alternative solutions to meet end results to do things better. (We deal with livestock, innovation and creativity is key!)
- Digital Skills- photography, video editing, use of social media, websites are all areas that you will build your skills in.
- Numeracy- learning how to watch costs, manage a budget, and increase revenue are skills that will be developed.

- Problem Solving- when dealing with livestock and people, there are always problems! You will learn how to deal with them. (some cussing may be involved!)
- Customer Relations- learning how to deal with difficult people and different personalities.

### **Skills Required**

We are looking for someone who wants to learn more about the equine and business industry. The perfect candidate will have skills or experience in the following areas.

- Horse-riding- be at an intermediate level or higher in riding ability. The individual must be comfortable with horses as you will be riding green broke horses with 60 days of training.
- Education- graduated from high-school with at least one year of post-secondary education. Preference will be given to individuals wanting to work in the equine field long term.
- Responsible- be able to work on own and take ownership of the job given while knowing when to ask for help.
- Driver's License- has their Class 5 driver's license.
- Criminal Background check- can provide a clean criminal background check.

### **Application Details**

If you are interested in applying, please submit your resume AND cover letter to [rockingheartranch@gmail.com](mailto:rockingheartranch@gmail.com) Attention: Melody Garner-Skiba by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Only those people of interest will be contacted for a follow up virtual interview. If you have any questions about the position, please text (403) 894-1005.