

Instructional Riding Seminars

**Come stay with us and experience Phoenix Ranch!
May through October we offer 3, 5 or 7 day educational riding seminars for
the beginner, intermediate, and advanced.**

The seminar itinerary can be tailored to focus on your specific interests. In addition to riding instruction may include workshops in farm and barn maintenance, horse selection and care, ownership, breeding, and training techniques. Come learn from our experience, converse, and make friends in a casual atmosphere and small group of 4 to 6 total attendees.



All seminars begin with an evaluation to determine your skill level and to match horse with rider. We will have a lesson per day and build on these skills during trail rides.

You'll also enjoy rest and relaxation in the natural beauty found here in the Finger Lakes Region. Visit local wineries, hike, view lakeside sunsets, camp or visit attractions in nearby Corning, Ithaca, and Aurora.



Our Instructor, Fran Levy, comes to us via the Kensington Stables in Brooklyn, where she was the head riding instructor and trainer for 11 years. In addition to working with the stable horses, she bought and trained four of her own which now reside here at Phoenix Ranch.

Fran's students and horses have competed to Grand and Reserve championships in the disciplines of Western Pleasure, Trail, and Performance, as well as English Equitation, Hunters and Jumpers. Her little Mexican Mustang, Benny, won High Point Horse of the Year titles four times in 6 years of showing.

Horse shows and competition are not all that inspire Fran to teach horseback riding. These, Fran says, are some highlights of her career as a riding instructor:

- Watching the sheer exuberance on the face of a blind and autistic boy when he successfully cantered Benny independently around the indoor ring for the first time.

- Taking Liz, a developmentally disabled young woman, to the special Olympics division of a local horse show, and her tears of pride and joy when she rode and completed her class on her beloved school horse in front of supporting friends and family for the first time.
- Teaching the basics of riding to an elderly woman who always wanted to, but never thought she could. Then see her enjoying the scenery on a trail ride for the first time

"It's about building a horse person, not just a rider, that is most important to me. Not everyone is an Olympic contender, but as riders we must understand a holistic approach; accept your limitations, set your goals, always try to improve to the best of your abilities. Learn to love and care for your horse from the ground up, not just when you are on their back. Push yourself a little bit beyond your limitations; you never know, you might surprise yourself. But above all, I try to teach riding from the horse's point of view, how the horse experiences the rider's correct or incorrect use of their anatomy, and build from there. There is a tremendous benefit in building horse-human relationships, benefits that last a lifetime."

3 day, 2 night ~ arrive Friday and depart Sunday by 4 pm ~ \$550.00
5 day 4 night ~ arrive Wednesday and depart Sunday by 4 pm ~ \$1100.00
7 day 6 night ~ arrive Monday and depart Sunday by 4 pm ~ \$1800.00

*Prices are based on double occupancy room and board.
Seminar size of 6 person maximum, 4 person minimum*

Call or email Sonja today to schedule and tailor your unique seminar itinerary!
