

What to Expect

SCHEDULE:

We will start at 9:00 am sharp each morning. Generally on Saturday mornings we start in the lounge area, with an orientation and discussion about behavior and your relationship with the horse. Then we'll move to the arena and do some ground work to get started off on the right foot with your horse and to improve your authority and leadership. We'll break for lunch about 12:30, for an hour. In the afternoon we'll meet in the arena for mounted work. Here we'll focus on improving your balance and position and more effective use of the natural aids. We'll break for the day around 5:00 PM and Julie will stick around to answer any questions you might have or work with you one-on-one if needed.

We'll start at 9:00 AM sharp on Sunday morning, in the arena with horses in-hand for ground work. We'll break mid-morning and give you time to saddle up for a mounted session before lunch. After lunch we'll do more mounted work, reviewing from the day before and focusing on more advanced riding skills. We'll end the day with a review from the whole weekend, a chance to answer lingering questions and identify the most important things for you to work on; we'll try to wrap up by 4:30 PM to give people time to load up and get home.

WHAT TO EXPECT (for riders):

Expect to ride and work in the arena with 14 other horses and their riders all day. It is a good experience for you and your horse to learn to focus on the task at hand, even with many other horses in the arena. Julie is very used to this size group and is quite good at giving individual attention to all and keeping everyone safe.

Expect to receive a TON of information and it may seem a little overwhelming at times. It's a good idea to bring a small pocket notebook and write things down that are meaningful to you. That way you'll have something to refer back to after the clinic is over. Remember, virtually everything covered in the clinic is on one of Julie's DVDs or on her website somewhere.

DO NOT STRESS ABOUT THE CLINIC! This is your experience and Julie is there to make sure you have a good time, stay safe and learn something. She is really good at putting everyone at ease and making you feel more confident. From Julie's point of view, she is there for you—not the other way around. It's not about egos or impressing people, it's about you and your horse and making what progress you can while you have a good time.

Don't worry about your stamina or ability level—be it high or low. Everyone is encouraged to work at their own pace. If you get tired, feel free to sit out a session. If there is an exercise you are uncomfortable with, it's perfectly fine to skip it. You will be riding with all sorts of riders—English and Western, beginner and expert. You'll see once you are there that no matter what your level, you'll advance your skills and knowledge.

Julie teaches very comprehensively—trying to address every subject from beginning to end, with a lot of detail and useful analogies. If you are on the novice side, there may be some information that is a little over your head. But don't worry—it will come back to you when you are ready to use it! If you are more advanced, you may find some holes in your training that you didn't even

know were there and you will definitely find some clarity in advanced skills and theory and feedback on your performance and training.

Julie's teaching and training is constantly evolving, so even if you've attended a clinic before or watched her live at an expo or reviewed her videos, you're guaranteed to find some new and useful information at this clinic or hear a different slant on an old topic. Be open minded and ready to learn and prepared to ask questions!

WHAT TO EXPECT (for spectators):

You'll enjoy watching all the horses and riders and take away invaluable information about riding, horse behavior and training issues. Expect to participate fully in all discussions and to ask questions about the clinic or about what is going on at home with your horse. Undoubtedly, you'll meet some new friends and have some time for networking with other horse people from the area.

Bring everything you need to be comfortable—a chair, notebook, water bottle, sunscreen, hat, cooler. Some clinic sites offer bleachers or you may be sitting on the side of the arena. It is recommended that you have appropriate footwear for being around the barn. Check to see if the site offer concessions or if you should bring a lunch.