

## **How to Host a Painted Pony - Creative Retreat**

Partner with Linda Finstad, author and fine art photographer by offering a fun and educational workshop at your facility.

It is very easy to host and will not disrupt your regular lesson plans (Riding schools) or day to day operations. Plus there is no financial risk or cost to the host.

### **What Do I have to Do?**

**First step is to set a date for the workshop** (*this is often the hardest part*)

As the host you will help to **Co-Promote the workshop** to your clients via social media, newsletters, Signage etc.

The painted Pony retreat provides a great way to promote new educational opportunities at your facility. But it is also a fabulous opportunity to earn extra income with very little effort.

### **You can earn up to \$480**

The host will **Provide horses** to participate in the social skills experiments

- These problem solving tests are safe and non invasive and can be carried out an outdoor arena.
- The workshop includes a guided horse walk - we will just hang out in the pasture with a group of horses, the objective is to learn and photograph equine behaviour and communication.

**Provide classroom Area** for participants to gather - we will be doing a couple of art projects so participants will need an area to work. (table and chairs)

**Provide Coffee** for participants on arrival and also at lunch time

### **Earn up to \$480**

You get \$24 from each registration (right off the top ) so if we have the maximum of 20 participants you earn \$480.

**Linda Finstad will provide** all the art supplies, canvasses, paints, brushes etc. Cheat sheets and printed course material. Along with props and equipment of rah equine experiments.

### **Cinnamon buns for the morning and Pie and cream for the afternoon**

Every participants will receive a signed copy of her book **“How to Discover Your Personal Spirit Horse”**

## **How much administration is there?**

Very little – you will receive a supply of tickets for people wanting to sign up at your facility Or there is an online registration option at [www.thehorsewatcher.com](http://www.thehorsewatcher.com) for people wanting to use pay pal.

**That's all there is to do – other than to pray for good weather**

## **Painted Pony - Creative Retreat Itinerary**

Experience a full day of learning and discovery centred around horses and art.

We start the day with coffee and Cinnamon buns to ensure everyone has plenty of energy for the full schedule we have planned.

After brief introductions and some general safety instructions and completing the waiver forms we start the program.

**Photography Basics 101** - Fine art photographer Linda Finstad will teach you the basics of digital photography. You will learn how to take “tack sharp” images of galloping horses. How to adjust your camera to give you the best chance of success and most importantly “How to see the Light”.

### **Guided Horse Walk and Body Language Challenge**

Camera's in hand everyone will head out to the pasture to meet the horses. The objective is to observe the horse's natural behaviour and photograph their silent conversations. Now on first blush it may seem like nothing much is going on but as you quieten your spirit and hang out in their presence your powers of observation will begin to enhance. The challenge is to Photograph the horses interacting and communicating with each other. Don't worry if you are new to recognizing equine behaviour there is a cheat sheet.

### **Personality Test**

This is a fun test that will reveal how your personality influences the type of horse or horses you are attracted to. The results may surprise you or give you an “aha” moment when you see the connection.

### **Art Project**

We will start to prepare the canvass for our “Spirit Horse” painting.

**Free Gift** - You will receive a signed copy of Linda Finstad's Latest book “**How to Discover your own Personal Spirit Horse**” perhaps some of the fine art featured in the book will act as inspiration.

**Lunch break - Please bring a bag lunch**

**Social Skills and Interactions - Equine Experiment**

The experiments are designed to test the problem solving abilities of horses, they were originally used to test dogs (one dog at a time). However we are interested in observing how the horses communicate, co-operate, collaborate and express their own unique personalities as they perform the tasks so we test several horses all at the same time ( which is way more fun).

### **Group Discussion**

Because we all see and interpret events differently - we will head back to the classroom and have a friendly group discussion to compare notes. Even though we all watched exactly the same experiment it is very interesting to compare how each person perceived what took place. This is not a test - there are no right or wrong answers - only your honest perception.

### **Step by Step guide to drawing horses**

Many people think it's hard to draw a horse after all there are lots of moving parts and joints. If you can draw simple shapes like circles, triangles and rectangles Linda Finstad will show you how to draw a horse and use this simple technique to draw horses standing, trotting, galloping, rearing well you get the picture. Once you learn this simple technique there is no limit to the variety of equine poses you will easily be able to draw.

### **Paint your Spirit Horse**

You will spend the rest of the afternoon creating your own personal spirit horse - this is not like "Paint-Night" each painting will be your own original work of art. The horses we will be multi coloured and in abstract form so there is no pressure to get the conformation exactly right.

This is a time to just enjoy the process with some new friends.  
Oh, and as a special treat for making it this far there will be cake!

### ***Workshop Info:***

The workshop starts at 9am and goes till around 4:30pm

We do take a lunch break so please bring a bag lunch

Bring your camera - this is a hands on course.

We will be outside shooting horses (photographically of course) so please wear suitable footwear, a hat and sun screen if it is sunny - and don't forget the bug spray.

### **Price \$165 per person**

Registration deadline is one week prior to the workshop date

*A minimum of 6 participants required to run the course and a maximum of 20.*

**if you have any questions please contact Linda Finstad**

**thehorsewatcher@shaw.ca**