

# Sequim Scout Troop 1498 Horsemanship Merit Badge Weekend with Peninsula Chapter BCHW September 25-26, 2021

PHOTOS BY DENISE HUPTER



By Linda Morin, Educational Chair,

## Wow-what a weekend.

**O**n September 25 and 26, 2021, sixteen Scouts and four leaders from Sequim Scout Troop 1498 gathered at Layton Hill Horse Camp (LHHC) in Sequim to begin earning their Horsemanship Merit badges. Twenty-four members of Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington (18 “instructors” and six support staff) presented twenty-one equines of thirteen different breeds from donkey to mule, mini to draft, gaited to ungated. These eager, attentive scouts, in two days, were introduced to the basic skills of horse handling: how to approach, halter, lead, and groom. They also learned safety-knot tying and about English and Western tack. Then, finally, all of them started riding.



Breeds, Colors, gaits, and an extensive tack display of all “tools equine,” ranging from an 1880’s side saddle to manure forks and wheelbarrows, were presented. The future manure movers of America were trained.

The Scouts did a great job of LNT (Leave No Trace) – they left the horse camp clean as if they had never been there.

More sessions will be held this Fall, both classroom and hands-on, to ensure these Scouts each complete all of their merit badge requirements.

This was a major project for Peninsula Chapter BCHW, in harmony with the education component of their mission statement. Peninsula Chapter is looking ahead to 2022 to continue its mission to educate people of all ages in our community about the importance of equines to the health of our forests and trails and trail building and maintenance in collaboration with the local land managers’ support. Anyone with a love of the Olympic Peninsula and all it offers can join. Owning stock is not a requirement. We need all skill sets.

If you are interested in knowing more about Peninsula Chapter BCHW, please access their website at [www.pbchwh.org](http://www.pbchwh.org).

