



2026 Equestrian Center Program Catalog



**Riding Lessons * Birthday Parties
Summer Camps * Scout Outings
Private* Semi-Private * Lead Line Lessons
Group Tours**

www.kendallforest.com
13986 McKanna Rd.
Minooka, Il 60447
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About the Ellis Equestrian Center...



Ellis House and Equestrian Center facilities include the Ellis House available for rental for small to large family occasions and events, classroom space for children's camps and birthday parties, an indoor and outdoor riding arena, a 12 stall horse stable, and multi-purpose hiking and riding trail loops through the preserve's scenic areas.

The Ellis House and Equestrian Center is a facility of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District located at Baker Woods Forest Preserve along the Aux Sable Creek woodland corridor in Minooka, Illinois.

Ellis Equestrian Center offers a variety of equestrian-focused educational and recreational programs for adults and children introducing students to horse care knowledge and safety practices, and both English and Western riding lessons.

Ellis Equestrian Center is the host facility for Sunrise North Therapeutic Riding, a not-for-profit riding program specializing in services that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with special needs by using equine oriented activities for cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well being.

Programs include, but are not limited to the following:

Lead Line Individual Lessons and Lesson Packages - Ages 4 through 6

Individual and 5-lesson packages are available for beginning riders to explore basic horse care and handling, tacking and mounting, and seat position. Lessons are offered in session blocks, with prorated package pricing available.

Individual and Semi-Private Lessons and Lesson Packages - Ages 7 through Adult

Individual, semi-private, and 5-lesson packages are available for beginning riders to explore basic horsemanship through intermediate horse care and handling, tacking and mounting, seat position, and walk-trot-canter progression and control. Lessons are offered in session blocks, with prorated package pricing available.

Pony Parties, Group Outings and Summer Camps

Pony Parties are available for children ages 4 and up, and feature use of the Ellis House party room, Ellis horses meet-and-greet, lead-line pony ride, and horse head cut-out craft activity or an actual horse shoe to decorate (additional charge). Ellis Equestrian Center also offers a variety of group outing packages, and summer camp programs for children.

Horse Adventure Tours

Come and experience the wonderful world of horses! In this 1 hour class you will learn about safety, breeds and colors. Then, enjoy the hands-on activities of grooming and leading a horse.

Ellis Equestrian Center Lessons Programs

2026 Sessions

Schedule and Pricing

Ellis House and Equestrian Center offers a wonderful riding lesson program. Lessons are offered year-round, 7-days a week with a qualified riding instructor. Both English and Western riding styles are offered for students 4 years of age and older, with lessons personalized for each student's individual needs and goals.

1-hour lessons include approximately 15-minutes of grooming and tacking-up, 30-minutes of riding, and approximately 15-minutes of un-tacking, grooming, and a lesson review.

Lead Line Lessons, Private and Semi-Private Lessons are offered year-round. Riders are scheduled for 5-consecutive weekly riding lessons per session. Ellis Houses allocates 6 weeks for each 5 week session. If a rider misses a lesson during the session and calls to cancel, the riders are able to reschedule a single lesson during the make-up week for that session when a minimum 24-hour advanced notification is provided for the rescheduled lesson. **If a rider is a no call / no show, the rider will not be able to make-up the lesson.** If a holiday falls on the rider's scheduled day, the prorated lesson fee will be deducted from the 5-week session. ***Payment is required before lessons start for each session.***

All riders are required to sign a waiver of liability and wear helmets at all times.

Lead Line Lessons - Ages 4 through 6

	Kendall County Resident Fees	Non-Resident Fees
5-Lead Line Lesson Package	\$ 160.00	\$180.00
Individual Lessons	\$ 40.00	\$ 44.00

Private Lesson Packages - Ages 7 through Adult

	Kendall County Resident Fees	Non-Resident Fees
5-Private Lessons Package	\$290.00	\$335.00
Individual Private Lessons	\$ 70.00	\$ 79.00

Semi-Private Lessons - Ages 7 through Adult

	Kendall County Resident Fees	Non-Resident Fees
Package	\$210.00	\$245.00
Individual Lessons	\$ 55.00	\$ 61.00

Please note that the Ellis Equestrian Center will prorate lesson package fees for mid-session enrollments.

2026 SESSION SCHEDULE

- Session #1: Jan. 4th – Feb. 7th
 Makeup Week: Feb. 8th – 14th
 No lessons: Jan. 19th, Feb. 12th
- Session #2: Feb. 15th – Mar. 21st
 Makeup Week: Mar. 22nd – Mar. 28th
 No lessons: Feb. 16th
- Session #3: Mar. 29th – May 2nd
 Makeup Week: May 3rd – 9th
 No lessons: Apr. 3rd – 5th
- Session #4: May 10th – Jun. 13th
 Makeup Week: Jun. 14th – 20th
 No lessons: May 25th, Jun. 19th
- Session #5: Jun. 21st – Jul. 25th
 Makeup Week: Jul. 26th – Aug. 1st
 No lessons: Jul. 3rd – 4th
- Session #6: Aug. 2nd – Sept. 5th
 Makeup Week: Sept. 6th – 12th
 No lessons: Sept. 7th
- Session #7: Sept. 13th – Oct. 17th
 Makeup Week: Oct. 18th – 24th
 No lessons: Oct. 12th
- Session #8: Oct. 25th – Nov. 28th
 Makeup Week: Nov. 29th – Dec. 5th
 No lessons: Nov. 11th, 26th – 27th
- Session #9: Dec. 6th – 19th

Ellis Equestrian Center Pony Birthday Parties



Children and families are invited to Ellis Equestrian Center to learn and interact with the horses in a fun and unique way while celebrating your child's birthday!

A 3-hour Pony Party includes:

- 1-hour of interactive hands-on horse activities and riding
- 1-hour of a craft activity provided by Ellis
- 1-hour for your leisure in our classroom or outside to eat and open gifts!

Pony Birthday Party Pricing (up to 10 kids):

Kendall County Residents	\$280.00
Each additional child.	\$30.00
Out of County Residents	\$290.00
Each additional child.	\$30.00



Parties can accommodate 5 to 25 children. Please provide one adult chaperone for every 6 children attending.

The horse craft and horse activities are provided by Ellis Equestrian Center staff. Additional options and activities such as a tractor-drawn hayride and/or upgrade horseshoe craft for \$5.00 /person and/or face painting for \$4.00/person can be added on to your party package. All activities are age appropriate and keep the safety of the participants in mind!



Scout Outings and Group Adventure Tours

Scout Outing

Come to Ellis to earn your next badge! Get hands on experience with our horses and basic horse knowledge including horse care, feeding, brushing, horse behavior, riding and more!
This is a 3-hour learning session with crafts.

Scout Outing Pricing:

Kendall County Residents	\$280.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$290.00

Pricing includes an outing for up to 10 children.

Additional children:

Kendall County Residents	\$30.00 for each additional child.
Out-of-County Residents	\$30.00 for each additional child.



Additional options and activities such as a tractor-drawn hayride, upgrade horseshoe craft for \$5.00 /person and/or face painting for \$4.00/person can be added on to your party package

Family Horse Adventure

This program is designed for a family of 6 or less to enjoy a one hour informative horse adventure. This experience includes: learning basic horse information; tour of the barn; and hands-on interaction with a horse.

Family Horse Adventure Pricing:

\$85.00 for up to 6 people

\$14.00 for each additional participant

\$12.00 per person for riding option

Equestrian Center Field Trip Programs

Ellis Equestrian Center Field Trip programs provide two to three-hour program options for school groups, summer camps, and church groups to host a learning field day at Ellis House and Equestrian Center. Groups receive a tour of the Ellis barn and facilities, and learn the basics of horse care through fun, hands on activities!

Field Trip Program Pricing:

\$12.00 per student

\$12.00 / person for riding option



2026 Summer Horse Camps for Children

Summer Day Camps at Ellis Equestrian Center provide children with the opportunity to learn the basics of horse care and horse behavior. All camps include fun, hands-on activities that teach safe, responsible care for horses. Children learn confidence around the horses by feeding, grooming, leading, and riding on a daily basis at our camps!

In addition to getting hands on with our horses, our camps provide a daily craft and a variety of games and activities to keep your child busy and having fun while they are here at Ellis!

Children's Summer Day Camp Options and Pricing

PARENT AND TOT DAY CAMPS

Explore the wonderful world of horses with your tot!
This is a two hour, 1-day camp offered for our younger horse lovers and the parent!

Ages 3 to 5

Session 1: Mon. June 8th

Session 2: Mon. July 6th

Session 3: Mon. August 3th

All Parent and Tot Camps run from 9:00 am-11:00 am

PRICES:

\$75 (Kendall County residents)

\$80 (Out-of-County)



THREE DAY CAMPS

Ellis Equestrian Center 3-day camps are four-hours per day. Camps will provide students with hands-on horse care, feeding, handling, and riding. Each camp also includes a daily craft and other explorations of Baker Woods Forest Preserve.

Ages 6 to 8

Session 1: June 16th- 18th (Tues. – Thurs.)

Session 2: July 14th-16th (Tues. – Thurs.)

Ages 9 to 13

Session 1: June 23rd—25th (Tues. – Thurs.)

Session 2: July 21st– 23rd(Tues.—Thurs.)

All Three Day Camps run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

PRICES:

\$275 (Kendall County residents)

\$285 (Out-of-County)

2 NIGHTS & 3 DAYS OVERNIGHT CAMP

At Overnight Camp, you will learn every aspect of what it's like to own a horse!

We will be responsible for:

- Morning and Evening Chores, which includes: Mucking stalls, feeding horses, refilling feed, throwing hay, and checking horses for injuries or other health issues.
- Learning to brush, tack, and ride (Both english and western riding styles)
- Learning the different types of horses and their respective jobs
- How to catch a horse from pasture/ how to release a horse out on pasture

We will also have our own fun with a movie night with pizza and popcorn, grilling out, lots of games (both on horseback and not), hiking the forest preserves trails, and, if weather permits, camping outside and even going for an end of camp trail ride!

Ages 8-14

Session: July 26th-28th (Sun-Tues.)

PRICES:

\$475 (Kendall County resident)

\$525 (Out-of-County)



REGISTER TODAY!

Summer camp enrollments are limited and fill fast!

Contact the Ellis Equestrian Center at **(815) 475-4035** to get details on registration.

Registration forms can be found online at www.kendallforest.com

Sunrise Center North Therapeutic Riding Program



Sunrise North is a not-for-profit therapeutic riding program specializing in services that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with special needs by using equine oriented activities for cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well being.

Programs include, but are not limited to the following:

Special Needs Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program

This program offers the opportunity to benefit from the movement of a horse in a controlled and safe environment. Therapeutic riding is a wonderful, emotional, physical and social activity for the disabled person. Many individuals with physical disabilities have seen vast improvement in core strength, flexibility and balance from our program. Often riders with mental disabilities improve his/her cognitive comprehension. Although the movement of the horse has proven benefits to the body and mind, the bond between the horse and rider cannot be put into tangible terms. We look forward to working with each rider and his/her individual goals.

Horses for Heroes

This unique program provides equine therapy for wellness and rehabilitation to disabled veterans. Horses for Heroes programs are endorsed by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl)

Autistic Musical Class on Horseback

The songs will be interactive with the riders while the movement of the horse along with the repetition of the songs can be soothing to an autistic individual.

Seniors in Saddles

The classes will be structured to help the senior with the following areas by grooming and riding the horse: increased blood circulation, increase liver function and digestion as well as stimulation of the internal organs, help bone-density and muscle mass, and keep the mind sharp.

Sunrise Center North therapeutic riding instruction is offered year-round following the Ellis Equestrian Center's lesson session schedule. For more information, contact:

Kris Mondrella,
Therapeutic Riding Program Director
815-260-5628
or visit our website at:
<http://www.sunrisenorth.com>

Ellis Equestrian Center - Contact Information

Ellis Equestrian Center is dedicated to connecting environmental stewardship with equestrian, educational, and recreational opportunities for the residents of Kendall County.

Baker Woods Forest Preserve and Ellis House and Equestrian Center's trails are open year round from 8:00 am to sunset. **All Ellis Equestrian Center facility rentals and programs require advanced reservations.**

2026 Ellis Equestrian Center Staff Directory

Irene Sommers

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Annabelle Owen

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Marty Vick-Ellis House and Equestrian Center

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SUNRISE NORTH THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM

Kris Mondrella-Program Director

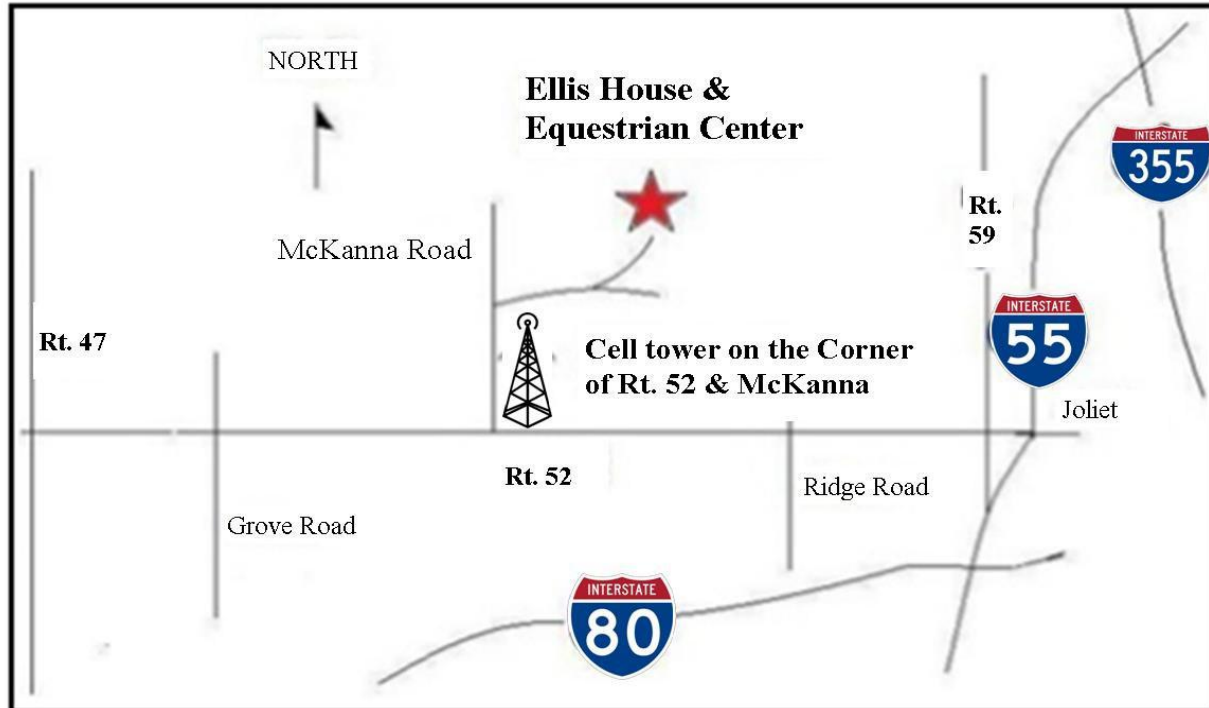
sunrisenorth@comcast.net

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See what's coming up at
Ellis Equestrian Center on
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Preserve District
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