# Geneviève Benoit Licensed Parelli 3-Star Instructor Equine Canada/FEQ Coach Official Coach, International Society of Rider Biomechanics

### 10 Reasons for Hosting a Clinic or Workshop

#### 1. Earn a free rider spot and/or private coaching!

This is one of the biggest benefits of hosting or organizing a clinic! Clinic hosts are awarded a free rider spot in the clinic providing the meet the minimum requirements as outlined in the Organizer Handbook. This opportunity can also be passed on to a friend or family member, or traded for private coaching time right before or after the clinic if you feel you cannot be organizing and riding at the same time! This is our way of thanking our hosts for finding or opening up their facility, bringing a group together and taking care of the logistical details and paperwork.

#### 2. Meet other Parelli enthusiasts in your area

Many Parelli enthusiasts feel a bit lonely and isolated on their property, or may be the only person doing Parelli at the barn. They are often unaware that there may be other like-minded students right near them! Clinics are great way of letting everyone know that 1) you love Parelli and 2) you are eager to provide a space for other enthusiastic horse lovers to meet and play. You can become a bit of a 'Parelli' hub, spreading the word in your area and making new friends to form a support group, have play days and bring in Licensed Instructors for clinics and workshops. This is a great way to build key to success no. 7, Support!

### It is a great way to start training and connecting if you have professional goals

If you see a Parelli Professional logo in your future, hosting clinics is one the most effective way of learning the ropes and getting mentorship from a Licensed Parelli Professional. You will also get to know students very well and start building your future professional network. Most Parelli instructors today started out as clinic hosts and through the support and mentorship of their instructors, have advanced their horsemanship, personal and business skills, giving them a great edge and set of tools once towards the achievement of their professional status.

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#### 4. Your instructor will LOVE you

Yes, we do love and value our hosts. Without them, many of us don't have a place to meet students and teach. Clinic hosts are an integral part of our success and our ability to spread the word about the Parelli program! Hosts are highly valued members of our dynamic team, and we are greatly motivated to help them succeed in any way we can, whether it is as horsemen, organizers or future professionals in the horse industry.

#### 5. Showcase your facility and build a network

You have worked hard to build your horse facility and you should be proud. Why not showcase it to the community, especially one that will understand and appreciate the effort you have put into setting up a safe, functional, handsome and green space for horses and horse lovers! Invite others to be a part of your dream and start making connections that may turn into friendships for a season, or a lifetime.

#### Get an inside view into the life and work of Parelli Professional

As a host, you will be involved in every detail of organizing a clinic, from forms to fill out, to setting up the facility and meeting and greeting new students. You will be a witness to everything that is part of what a Parelli instructor does to get ready to teach a group of students! You will get a chance to find out why we do what we do, and why we do it the way we do it, and get an inside view of what it means to be a LPP. We will share meals and evenings discussion, and get ready for the day ahead while sipping our coffee. Every wondered what it might be like?

# 7. Have unique access to your Parelli Instructor - an opportunity to get all your questions answered!

In most cases, your Parelli instructor will be staying with you or on the property for the time of the clinic, and after hours discussions are always a fun part of hosting. This is where you get the inside scoop on what's going on with the program, or get private Q&A time over a meal, an opportunity to get all your inquires answered without having to compete for the instructor's time and attention - that is, until we need to retire so we can be fresh for the next day!

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# 8. Grow your leadership, organizational and emotional fitness skills (never-ending self-improvement)

Clinic hosting is a great opportunity to exercise some leadership and take charge of a project, with a safety net! We will help you and support you throughout, so if you don't know how to do everything, don't worry, we do and we can teach you! It is also a good way to exercise your emotional fitness skills as you may have to deal with different types of people and students, some may be worried or unsure, and may look to you to help them make a decision that fits them. Clinic hosting involves the following set of skills: interpersonal skills, event management, communications, marketing savvy, administration, and a bit of financial ability to keep track of deposits and payments. Successful hosts may also be able to do a bit of networking with potential sponsors for things like coffee, snacks, and perhaps gifts for a raffle (for example, as fundraising effort for the Parelli Foundation).

#### 9. Get it done with a little bit of fun!

Organizing a clinic is a project fixed in time which may span several weeks. While some aspects may seem a bit overwhelming at first, the key is to put one front in front in the other and exercise the 7 Keys to Success that are also fundamentals of your horsemanship journey: Attitude, Knowledge, Tools, Techniques, Time, Imagination and Support. If you have the Attitude and the Time, we will Support you with Tools, Techniques and Knowledge. For example, we can supply already made forms, posters and advertising media to help you spread the word about your clinic and keep track of registrations. A bit of Imagination never hurts, especially when it comes to organizing meal options or setting up a playground. Get a few volunteers together to help you and remember to keep it FUN! The feeling of accomplishment after a well received and successful event is addictive, and this is why many hosts keep renewing the experience year after year!

#### 10. Did we mention the free rider spot?

Again, you save yourself the cost of the clinic (valued at over \$400 for 2 days), if you meet the minimum number of participants. In most cases, even if you don't, and we decide to hold the clinic with a smaller group, we will make sure you are compensated appropriately

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for your efforts, because we LOVE our hosts and we want to make sure to let you know how much we appreciate your efforts to help us raise the level of horsemanship in your area!

## Ready to jump in?

Take a look at our Organizer's Handbook on <a href="www.vifargent.com/organize-your-own-event">www.vifargent.com/organize-your-own-event</a> and call or email to set it up!