



# Mentorship Programs

Based on Chris Irwin's Non-Resistance Training Philosophy at Falling Star Ranch in Dunster, British Columbia, Canada

With Chris Irwin Gold Certified Trainer and Coach Birgit Stutz

## Program Overview

Falling Star Ranch offers mentorship programs for those who would like to completely immerse themselves into horsemanship and intensively study the philosophy and methodology of world-renowned Canadian horse trainer, coach and clinician Chris Irwin ([www.chrisirwin.com](http://www.chrisirwin.com)).

Falling Star Ranch's mentorship programs are of various length, from one day to several months (beginning of April to end of October), and for any level of rider, and have been developed so that every program participant can learn and progress at his/her own speed.

The mentorship program is different from our working student program in that the mentee isn't involved in the day-to-day operations of the ranch (e.g. no chores to do) and can therefore fully immerse himself/herself into studying.

Mentees receive two lessons (groundwork and/or riding) per day and are encouraged to audit any training sessions and riding lessons for the rest of the day. Mentees are also welcome to use the Falling Star Ranch library consisting of training videos, DVDs, books and articles for studying purposes.

Mentees work with both Falling Star Ranch horses and outside training horses to improve their horsemanship skills both on the ground and in the saddle.

This is a unique program for students not only wanting to improve their horsemanship skills on the ground and in the saddle, but also for those looking to achieve certification in the Chris Irwin methodology. Since January 2011, Chris Irwin only accepts uncertified trainers into his Train-the-Trainer program if they have attended a minimum of two private or semi-private lessons with Chris Irwin, OR have attended two clinic days with Chris Irwin, OR have trained with a Chris Irwin certified double silver or gold trainer AND received a letter recommending the student is ready for evaluation in the Train-the-Trainer program.

The mentorship program is suitable for any rider wishing to accelerate their horsemanship skills, both on the ground and in the saddle, and is an outstanding opportunity for horsemen and horsewomen who wish to become future equine professionals.



Mentees may stay on as working students at Falling Star Ranch and further develop their horsemanship skills after completion of a minimum of a one-month mentorship program at Falling Star Ranch. However, a working student position is NOT guaranteed upon completion of the one-month mentorship program and depends on availability of working student positions as well as skill level of the applicant.

Participants must be at least 18 years old in order to participate in the mentorship program.



## Accommodation

Accommodations are not included in the mentorship program. Mentees are welcome to bring a camper or tent and stay directly at Falling Star Ranch. Please be aware that there are no public washrooms (except an outhouse) and no public showers available at Falling Star Ranch. Limited hookups for power are available at \$15 per day. Please bring your own drinking water as we have to haul our drinking water. You are welcome to use our firepit or barbecue to cook your supper.

There is no public phone at Falling Star Ranch. Wireless Internet and cell phone reception (spotty) is available at Falling Star Ranch. The closest payphone is 10 minutes from the ranch at the Dunster General Store.

For mentees who do not wish to camp at Falling Star Ranch, there are several hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts in nearby McBride and Tete Jaune (see links at [www.fallingstarranch.ca](http://www.fallingstarranch.ca) for recommendations). Please make your own arrangements.

Mentees may rent one of the guest rooms in the main house (shared bathroom) if available. Please inquire for availability and cost.

## Meals and Refreshments

Meals are not included in the mentorship program. Mentees provide all their own meals and refreshments. Bottled water, juice boxes, cookies, muffins, fruit and popsicles are available for purchase at the ranch. Mentees may purchase meals at the ranch. Please inquire for cost.

## Pets

In consideration of our own pets, we ask that you leave your pets at home. There is the option of boarding pets at a local kennel in McBride. Visit Robson Valley Pet Hostel at <http://wizardryshop.50megs.com/kennels.html> for more information.

## Certification

Participation in a mentorship program at Falling Star Ranch does not guarantee that the mentee will receive certification from Chris Irwin. If Birgit feels that the mentee is ready for certification, the mentee can then sign up for a Train-the-Trainer clinic with Chris Irwin at their cost (approximately \$600 plus GST for two days) and Birgit will write a letter of reference for the mentee.

The clinics take place in Canada (Alberta and Ontario) and in the Netherlands (Arnhem). Chris Irwin's clinic schedule is available at [www.chrisirwin.com](http://www.chrisirwin.com) at the beginning of each calendar year.

Clinic participants can either lease a horse at some of the stables, bring their own horse, or, if going to a clinic in Alberta, they may be able to lease a horse from Falling Star Ranch.

Additional costs on top of the clinic fee are stabling fees for the horse (if bringing a horse to the clinic), fees for leasing a horse (if applicable), as well as mileage expenses if leasing a Falling Star Ranch horse.

## Insurance

Every mentee is required to carry personal liability insurance that covers horse-related activities. Insurance can be purchased through Horse Council BC for \$60 a year if you don't have your own insurance (<http://www.hcbc.ca/Individual-Membership.html?>).

## Program Fees

Fees for the mentorship program not including food and accommodation are as follows:

- \$150 per person per day
- 500 per person per week
- \$2,000 per person per month
- \$1,500 per person per month for a minimum of 3 months.

All fees need to be paid in advance.

## Testimonials from Mentees

*"My mentorship stay at Falling Star Ranch was fantastic. You learn so much by following and watching Birgit all day and asking as many questions as you like. She takes the time to explain everything really well, even when she is riding a horse. And the two lessons a day are perfect. You can try everything that you have seen all day yourself with the help of Birgit. The mentorship at Falling Star Ranch was an amazing experience. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to learn how you can really work together with your horse, and build a really strong and good relationship with your horse."*

Lisanne, Holland



*"I decided to do a mentorship program at Falling Star Ranch because I really wanted to find a new way to work with horses. I'm just amazed at the method and how using horse psychology changes the horses. Chris Irwin's method is based on body language, the language of the horse, as well as our body language. If we don't pay attention to what the horse tells us with its body, then we just don't get the respect and trust. I really enjoyed my mentorship stay at Falling Star Ranch. The people and horses are great! I felt like I was living in a different world, like in a dream!! No matter what's going on in the world, you're just in a peaceful place where the horses are the king."*

Noia, Switzerland



**For more information on Falling Star Ranch's mentorship programs or to request an application form, contact:**

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