

## HELLO FRIENDS OF ROCK LEDGE RANCH!

As you eagerly await the return of the summer living history season, you may be wondering “what is going on at Rock Ledge Ranch?” We want to keep you informed of what we have been up to, what is presently going on, and what is upcoming at Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site. So we’ve corralled all that information into one place, this monthly roundup newsletter!

### IN RECENT HISTORY...

February, March, and April have been exciting months for the Ranch! Our new Ranch gateway is up, drawing attention to our presence as a unique part of Garden of the Gods Park. Improving our ability to serve our community, the Ranch now has an ADA accessible sidewalk at the south Pike Street gate and new baby changing stations in the Carriage House restrooms. Thanks to the city forestry department, the Ranch has started mitigating invasive species in the arboretum in order to cultivate a healthier ecosystem. We’ve hosted three barn dances this winter/spring, and look forward to another this weekend!



*Our first barn dance of the spring*

In March, three community conversations hosted by the Living History Association in partnership with Colorado State University produced some great discussions and ideas. Be on the lookout for some new signs around the Ranch as a result of these conversations. Thank you to the LHA, to CSU, and to everyone from the community who participated!

Approximately seventy students come to the Ranch every week for our outdoor enrichment program, School at the RANCH (Raising Awareness of Nature, Culture, and History) which is put on in partnership with Alpine International Preparatory Academy. In March and April our studies of nature, culture, and history included learning about rattlesnakes, sheep, fiber, seasons, eggs, seeds, fungi, and more!

We’ve also added a new staff member: Elizabeth Borders, lead teacher for School at the RANCH and author of *The Stories the Stones Might Tell*, officially joined the Rock Ledge Ranch staff as a full-time educator and historical interpreter this spring.

It may just be April, but we are gearing up for summer already! We are in the thick of interviewing, clothing, and training Junior Docents for our summer living history program, and planning training for our summer interpretive staff.

## AROUND THE BEND...

Our next barn dance is April 19—and it is **SOLD OUT!** We are delighted that the revival of this tradition has been such a hit! If you've loved our spring dances—or have missed them, and want to join in the fun!—mark your calendars for a family dance on Friday July 19th! Ticketing information coming soon.

On Saturday, April 20, Rock Ledge Ranch will host the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. Find out more here: <https://specialolympicsco.org/event/colorado-springs-polar-plunge/>

April 24th is Spring Homeschool Day! We invite homeschool families to join us between 10am



*A sweet moment in the barn*

and 2pm for living history demonstrations, hands-on learning activities, and presentations from community partners. Admission is only \$4 per person! In addition to homeschool day, more than twelve local schools will visit Rock Ledge Ranch for field trips in April and May.

Barnyard Buddies, our preschool program, resumed in February after a winter break! It meets every Thursday morning at 10:30am in the barn, where Ranch staff read engaging literature to preschoolers and their families. The first Thursday of every month includes a craft and a snack as well as story time, and families can register online to attend. This event is FREE for members and costs \$4 per child for non-members—but it fills up fast, so register early!

Make sure you mark your calendars for Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19, when the inaugural Garden of the Gods Art Festival will take place here on the grassy lawn of Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site. This new art festival features an outstanding lineup of 150 juried fine artists and craftsmen from across the nation. The event will last from 10am to 5pm each day, and you can purchase tickets online through our website now! Show your LHA membership card at the entrance to get free admission!

Save the Date: Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino is returning to Rock Ledge Ranch this year on Sunday, September 8th! Tickets will be available starting May 1st (and members get a discount!).

Thanks for supporting the Ranch! We hope you'll visit soon and enjoy the approach of spring around the site. See you next month on the Ides of May for our monthly roundup!



## APRIL AND MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, April 18, 10:30am

Barn Dance (SOLD OUT)  
Friday, April 19, 6-8pm

Polar Plunge at Rock Ledge Ranch  
Earth Day at Garden of the Gods Visitor Center  
Saturday, April 20

Spring Homeschool Day  
Wednesday, April 24, 10am-2pm

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, April 25, 10:30am

Barnyard Buddies First Thursday Preschool  
Program (Register online!)  
Thursday, May 2, 10:30am

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, May 9, 10:30am

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, May 16, 10:30am

Garden of the Gods Art Festival at Rock Ledge  
Ranch  
May 18-19, 10am-5pm

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, May 23, 10:30am

Barnyard Buddies Storytime  
Thursday, May 30, 10:30am

Sheep Shearing and Fiber Arts Day  
Saturday, June 1, 10am-5pm

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Rock Ledge Ranch is partnering with many other organizations and city departments to improve and increase our programs and community impact! Some of our community partners in March and April include:

Colorado Springs Utilities

Colorado State University

Garden of the Gods Visitor Center

City of Colorado Springs Staff Archeologist

Howbert Elementary School

Bear Creek Nature Center

The Independence Center

City of Colorado Springs Greenhouse

D-20 Homeschool Academy

City Risk Management

School District 11



*Barnyard Buddies*