

## Learn Basic Round Pen Techniques

Charlie will demonstrate the Foundation First Mountain Horse Training™ techniques and describe his reasoning each step of the way to riding a young horse for the first time. He will share with his audience how to establish a foundation for future communication and training.

Training and colt starting begins by reducing a horse's fear. An effective tool for helping with this process is the round pen. After asking a horse to move in a round pen he eventually will start to look for a better way. Working a horse in the round pen, forces him to use his brain. It is just as if he is being made to think, "How can I change this?" Eventually he discovers that he can rest when he stops and faces his handler. Horses are basically lazy creatures. They will look for the easy way out every time. It their handler's responsibility to help them find it and do the right thing. Charlie says, "When teaching a horse in the round pen, if he turns to face me, I pet him and walk away. In essence, I am saying to the horse, 'All you have to do is stand, and I'll leave you alone.' I may repeat this process many times before the horse is comfortable with what I'm doing. If he loses focus and turns away, I put him back to work until he engages his brain again and figures it out. I may repeat this process 50 times before I actually get on the horse for the first time."

You may bring a horse of your own to start or schedule a time when Charlie will be starting a horse being trained at SRF. The process will start with ground work, desensitizing, lateral flexion, saddling, riding etc. Progress through the program will depend on how well the horse responds as new expectations are required.

Remember, starting a young horse for the first time can be a dangerous activity if you do not have a skill level up to the task. If this is the case, leave starting young horses to a professional trainer.