**Mackenzie Taylor Alsop**

13 Ashdonleigh Grove, Nelson, New Zealand

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**Personal statement:**

I am looking for employment to further develop my skills, and follow my passion to work with horses and cattle, in a practical hands-on position. I am an experienced rider, and farm hand, with a proven background in customer experience. I have been acknowledged as showing initiative, the ability to learn quickly, attend to tasks with confidence and independence.

**Skills:**

Leadership - Confident communicator, providing instruction and assistance for groups (tourists) of all ages and abilities.

Motivation - Ability to learn and pick up new skills along the way and perform them at a high standard. Also, the ability to motivate others to achieve results.

Customer service – experienced horse trekking guide, delivering to a wide range of clients

Time Management – ability to juggle many tasks in a fast-paced environment.

Maturity - To be able to use initiative in the workplace, and work in an unsupervised environment.

Health and Safety – sound understanding of work safe practices, to ensure staff, customers and animals are operating within a safe environment.

**Employment summary:**

**Employer: SR Horse Training, Alberta**

**February 2020 – July 2020**

**Duties: Trainer**

* Gained a varied range of experience to train and prepare horses and colts for clients for a

variety of recreational equine pursuits and specific disciplines.

* Riding 8 - 9 horses daily and spending essential time on each horse and their individual

training needs including ground training, reining, roping, jumping and loading on and off the trailer.

* Demonstrated patience and perseverance to address horse behaviour issues, increasing my knowledge as to the underlying issues, as to why the problem exists.
* Provided effective customer service to understand the needs of the clients with a ‘can do’

attitude to overcome challenges to deliver for the client and employer.

* Identifying injuries and have always taken the appropriate action/s to ensure the wellbeing

of horse’s health was a priority.

* Daily horse management and maintenance of equipment and yards.
* Can safely operate tractor to feed round bales.
* Handling of breeding mares and studs.
* Full responsibility of stall hygiene, feeding and watering of horses.
* Starting colts with steady confident manner to ensure a good introduction to being ridden.

**Employer: Sundance Ranch, British Columbia**

**March 2019 – October 2019/December 2019 – January 2020**

**Duties: Wrangler, Ranch Hand**

* Took a leadership role to provide instruction to large and small groups of riders who were of varying abilities from new to experienced riders. Demonstrated the ability to communicate, show patience to encourage and motivate people in a fun an engaging environment.
* Ensured that customer expectations were exceeded, by ensuring that customers had a safe and enjoyable horse-riding experience, which resulted in repeat custom.
* Led treks anywhere from one-hour basic trail rides to six-hour advanced rides a day over varying levels of terrain.
* Provided care for 130 horses, ensuring that the health and wellbeing of the horses, so that horses were well groomed and in the best health and presentation for trekking customers.
* Ability to understand the behavioural signs of horses to recognise their potential demeanour of each horse.
* Ensured that the tack and equipment was checked for damage, and equipment was cleaned and stored for reuse.
* Ability to recognise any signs of ill-health e.g. injury, colic and took the appropriate actions (i.e. called Vet) to ensure the horse returns to full fitness.
* Along with additional farm work, including feeding out with the tractor, calving, branding, castrating and fencing etc.
* Organising shoeing/trimming lists for the farrier.
* Regular herd walks ensuring the health of the horses, doctoring/fencing when necessary.

**Employer: Willowview Pastures, Oamaru (NZ)**

**February 2018 – February 2019**

**Duties: Dairy Assistant and farm hand**

* A dairy assistant responsible for milk harvesting and quality assurance
* Gained an understanding of cow nutrition and the links to pasture management, water and soil, and the outcome it has on producing quality milk
* Actively involved in animal health and management, working alongside supervisor to identify health issues, gaining an invaluable experience of animal welfare practice, including vaccinations, mastitis, inductions, AI, and herd testing
* Able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of the dairy plant, chemical applications when cleaning plant, and hygiene best practice
* Gained a wide-ranging experience being actively involved with general farm duties, including moving stock, calving, fencing, irrigation, pest and weed management
* Able to operate machinery including Tractors, Bale feeders, 4WD motorbikes

**2014-2016**

**Golden Hills Equestrian Center/Stud (NZ)**

**Duties: Assistant**

* Dressage and Jumping
* Work with Mares and foals in an unsupervised environment
* Ability to ensure all tasks are done to a high standard, including yard and stable maintenance
* Have experience leading broodmares with foals at foot
* Experience with excited or pushy horses and ensuring my safety and others safety is a priority
* Experience handling young horses
* Ensuring horses are not in dangerous situations where they could harm themselves or others

**16 April 2016 - 23 April 2017 (after school position)**

**Employer: Oaklands Farm, Nelson (NZ)**

**Duties:**

* General duties at the ‘natural milk’ bottling plant.

**2010 - 2014**

**Richmond Riding for Disabled (RDA) (after school position)**

**Duties: Horse management/Assistant**

* Feed-out and care of horses/ponies.
* Assistance with health of horses.
* Assisting children and young adults with disabilities to ride horses
* Meet and greet customers both with disabilities and students learning to ride
* To be able to communicate with people from the ages of 7 years old to the parents/grandparents of the students
* To be able to organise multiple children and horses in a short space of time
* To provide help with pony rides in a social setting at the A & P show with large crowds of parents and children
* Volunteer at fundraising events for RDA

**Education and qualifications**

**NCEA Level 3**- Nayland College, Stoke, 2017

Subjects:

* Physical Education
* English
* Psychology
* Economics
* Biology

Courses:

Also, received an award for NCEA Level 1 and 2 passing both with Merit Endorsed

**Personal interests/activities**

I enjoy playing sport, and working around, with or riding horses in my spare time. I like to teach people at all levels and like to work around people in an outdoor environment or in any. And am always looking to gain as much experience as I can.

**Referees:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Shannon Skeels** Head Wrangler4168071414 | **Geoff Taylor** Farm Owner64272287868 | **Sharon Higgens**Farm Owner0275472257 | **Julien Raine**Farm Owner6421443993 |
| **Cynthia Nichols**Operator of Guest Ranch2504577177 | **Greg Nichols**Farm Manager2504577457 |  |  |



To whom it may concern,

Mackenzie Alsop worked as a wrangler for Sundance Guest Ranch throughout the 2019 season (March- October).

Mackenzie assisted in taking care of a large herd of 130 horses on a day-to-day basis. Her duties included, but were not limited to: grooming, saddling and unsaddling horses, escorting groups of guests of all abilities on trail rides, doctoring, feeding out with a tractor and performing general barn maintenance. Mackenzie was always confident and calm when handling any of our horses.

She regularly worked long hours and always remained enthusiastic and attentive to detail. She is a firm favorite with the guests and showed a high level of integrity and customer service at all times.

Mackenzie was an exceptional member of the team this summer, and we would not hesitate to welcome her back at any time.

If you need any additional information, you can contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Skeels

**SUNDANCE GUEST RANCH
Head Wrangler**

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