

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paca Peace Ranch for Youth Sponsors Community Open House
July 23 event is an opportunity to meet the alpacas that are helping local youth become effective citizens

Westcliffe, CO—July 1—On Saturday, July 23 the Paca Peace Ranch for Youth is opening its barn doors for visitors to experience a bit of the successful program that has boosted participants' self-worth and confidence. From 1pm to 4pm at the ranch located north of Westcliffe, folks can meet and feed the Paca Peace Ranch alpacas, enjoy live music, learn about alpaca fleece and watch how Paca Peace Youth maneuver their charges through the obstacle course.

“We’re entering the third year of our program to help youth learn about these gentle animals and the responsibilities connected with livestock ownership,” says Bob Hill, ranch manager of the non-profit Paca Peace Ranch. “This is our second annual open house, and people come to meet the alpacas and the kids that participated in prior years’ programs. This year we have a special addition because we have a two-month old cria, alpaca baby, for people to see.”

Open House features live music, hands-on fiber demonstrations, and refreshments

Local fiber artist and hand spinner, Eleanor Oakhill, will demonstrate how alpaca fiber is prepared by carding and spinning. Visitors can join Eleanor and hand card alpaca wool to take home with them.

At 1:30 Paca Peace Ranch Youth will negotiate an obstacle course with their alpacas to demonstrate the bonds that the students have formed with their alpaca partners.

2:00 Local musicians, “Random Highways,” featuring Amy Moulton and Kristen Maher will perform an eclectic mix of bluegrass, western and original music.

3:00 Paca Peace Youth in action with their alpaca partners

3:30 Visitors can join a short hike to a scenic view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Paca Peace Ranch is located north of Westcliffe in the Bull Domingo Ranch. Take Route 69 north of Westcliffe to mile marker 62 (Copper Gulch Road) and follow the yellow balloons to Paca Peace Ranch, 1815 Black Cloud Circle. For more information, call 719-783-2877 or visit www.pacapeace.org.

Paca Peace Ranch for Youth is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by Bob and Sue Hill. Bob is a retired farm manager with 38 years of experience. Sue is a retired teacher and kindergarten through 12th grade counselor. Paca Peace Ranch provides a residential program for fifth-grade students of Custer County and Cotopaxi Schools.

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