

El'dad Ranch Day Program

Day Program's Overview

The El'dad Day program is a comprehensive, proactive, and integrated part of El'dad. It is a multifaceted program providing participant support in life skills, vocational training, and assistance in designing a future of choice for both men and women with intellectual disabilities. One component is to achieve community involvement for our participants through meaningful employment.

El'dad Ranch Day Program objectives;

- Individualized, participant directed planning
- Increased self esteem / Emotional growth
- Job readiness / Skill / Social skill development
- Continued learning
- Supported community employment

Eligibility Requirements:

Adult

- Male or Female, over 18

Intellectual Disability

- Documented intellectual disability as determined by Family Services. (As opposed to mental illness) Dual diagnosis is acceptable and common in the individuals coming but the intellectual disability is what carries the funding for the program. FASD is also common among participants at El'dad

Desiring Change

- Willingness and the desire to participate in the program where they can grow in areas of their choice that is both positive and productive.

First Step:

CSW contact Kevin Drain – El'dad Ranch via email, kdrain.eldad@initiativesjc.org, or the Eastman Region Family Services Supervisor (204-346-6259)

Getting Started

Upon entry to the program, a new participant receives on-site support in various programs, depending on the season and the skills of the individual. These programs assist in a variety of ways:

Staff Support

- All participants receive staff support in the form of group or individual meetings to address issues arising in their lives. All participants are encouraged to attend weekly-chaired meetings to voice their concerns and make recommendations and provide ongoing feedback to the program.

Work Ethic

- Participants have the opportunity to acquire basic work ethic routines such as getting ready for work on time, staying on the job, following instruction, dressing appropriately, working under a supervisor, and working within a team environment. Soft Skills including appropriate behaviour including language and manners required to be successful in the workplace are reviewed daily.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Our vehicle maintenance program includes a service bay complete with hoist and welding equipment where participants may learn skills related to automotive mechanics and metal fabrication. Participants have the opportunity to learn the basics in Oil changes, brake replacement and car detailing.

Building Maintenance

- El'dad Ranch's Building Maintenance program includes servicing lawn & garden equipment as well as repairing various buildings on the property and at our Mitchell location. They may learn skills in commercial cleaning, driveway leveling, glass replacement, drywall repair and painting.

Nutrition

- The participants learn skills and training preparing meals for the work crew. They receive training in basic nutrition and safe food handling techniques related to the Canada Food Guide. All skills acquired can be transferred to the food service industry

Carpentry

- El'dad Ranch has a full service carpentry shop where wood-based projects are constructed with staff and participants. Examples of the work include picnic tables, furniture refinishing as well as small building construction. Participants learn the safe operation of all power tools including saws, drills, and lathes. El'dad specializes in

custom woodworking and all carpentry requests of the agency both internally and in the community.

Projects

- Throughout the year, there are opportunities to be involved with animal care including beef calves, honeybees as well as dogs on the property at the Ranch. They may also be involved in our Garden / Landscaping Program maintaining a garden and learning transferable skills in maintaining El'dad Ranch's 20-acre property.

Responsibility

- Those who learn and demonstrate these skills effectively may be encouraged to apply internally for various "Lead Hand" positions within the Day Program enabling them to gain experience in training others and modelling work readiness attitudes.

Community Work Projects

- El'dad Ranch provides supervised work projects in the community with an emphasis on independence and positive interaction with fellow crewmembers and customers alike. Examples of the projects include municipal composting, fence / deck repair and house painting in and around Steinbach. There are additional opportunities in furniture moving in the community. The program is constantly expanding to address the needs of the community. Participants may also be involved with the Steinbach Farmer's Market receiving skills in customer service, money handling marketing goods and services of El'dad Ranch.

Training Allowance

- We provide an incentive based training allowance to participants of the Day program. The amount allocated reflects area of growth including attendance, attitudes and respect for fellow workers, customers and staff alike. Progress is reviewed bi-weekly with feedback on areas for growth regarding employment in the community.

Transitioning to Employment

- El'dad provides work experience opportunities including construction, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations etc. A participant may receive additional training options via other agencies in the region that may include High School Equivalency (G.E.D.), computer applications and driver's education. This may also include referrals to Employment Manitoba for subsidies to employers for on the job training opportunities.

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Drain, Director, El'dad, Initiatives for Just Communities

Email: kdrain.eldad@initiativesjc.org