

Sara VanNess

Sara Van Ness started out as a volunteer at SPUR in 2004. She was first drawn to SPUR because the program combined her two passions: helping children and working with horses. In 2007, she became an instructor and is continuing to learn and grow with her students every day.



Outside of SPUR, Sara is a full time student at Monmouth University where she will finish her degree in English and Secondary Education in the spring of 2008. She has taught in a variety of settings including everything from helping students with test prep and writing skills in an after school program in Long Branch to teaching a “Heroes and Villains” course to gifted and talented children at Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

Sara is the president of Kappa Delta Pi, a national education honor society, and International Reading Association on campus at Monmouth. She is also a member of the Council for Exceptional Children. Along with her fellow members of both organizations, she is a strong advocate for Autism awareness and literacy in the surrounding community. She plans to go to graduate school after finishing her bachelor’s to obtain a Ph.D. in English, hoping to one day teach on the college level.

Sara has been riding since she was 10 years old and owns two horses, Java and Pizzaz.