

Volunteer Job Description

Side walker

Objective:

The side walker is available physically to support the rider, (during grooming, riding, mounting and dismounting) and to help the rider guide their horse in following directions, of the instructor, as necessary. The amount of support required is dependent on each rider.

Qualifications:

- Minimum age of fourteen years
- Attend an annual or one on one training and safety session at North Country RIDE
- Commitment to attend class of choice each week for the duration of a 6-week session
- Ability to arrive 10 minutes before scheduled class to meet with instructor
- Walk for up to an hour at a time (indoors and outdoors) on uneven surfaces
- Ability to hold your arm raised and out to the side for extended periods of time
- Must have adequate vision and hearing to ensure the safety of horses and participants
- Ability to communicate and act collaboratively with staff and other volunteers
- Comfort in working with the disabled (including physical contact)
- Physical and mental ability to support a rider in a crisis situation.
- Horse experience preferred but not required

Responsibilities:

- Safety of rider as directed by Instructor
- Help prepare horses for class (grooming and tacking), if necessary
- Assist with rider support during mounting and dismounting as necessary
- Walk next to the rider throughout the class, including physical support as necessary
- Help the rider follow directions given by the instructor
- Encouraging the rider to stretch and grow to the best of the rider's ability.
- Adhering to all North Country RIDE policies and procedures.

Timeframe: (we are always flexible with your time)

- Minimum length of commitment: one class a week for the duration of a session
- Estimated total hours; two hours per class (more classes can be done)

Volunteer Benefits:

- Satisfaction of helping in your community
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of what it means to live with a disability
- Learn the care and healing benefits of being around horses
- Acquire community service experience for school, church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, personal resume, etc.
- Develop new friends