

Volunteer Job description Horse Leader

Objective:

To have primary responsibilities for the horses, i.e., prepare the horse for class, maintain safety spacing in the arena and elsewhere, and assist the rider during class while maintaining control of the horse. Primary responsibilities include following the directions of the instructor and supporting her leadership role.

Qualifications Required:

- Minimum age of fourteen
- Satisfactory completion of a North Country RIDE orientation session and a minimum of one (1) additional training session annually.
- Horse experience preferred, (this varies; but means that volunteer should be knowledgeable and comfortable around a variety of horses)
- Able to halter, lead, crosstie a horse; able to tack a horse (English or Western)
- Able to groom a horse without concern
- Must be able to walk, and jog periodically, for an hour at a time (indoors/outdoors) on uneven surfaces
- Ability to recognize possible warning signs and/or hazards pertaining to the horse.
- Ability to communicate with instructor, other volunteers, and rider.
- Must have adequate vision and hearing to ensure safety of horses and participants
- Be able to lift up to 20 pounds (saddle) above your head
- Ability to work collaboratively with Staff and Volunteers

Responsibilities:

- Ensure horse is groomed, tacked and warming up in arena 10 min. prior to class
- Lead the horse during class, within a group including sidewalkers, keeping primary focus on assigned horse while maintaining communication with team
- Listen to and enact directions of the instructor
- Untack the horse after class (unless needed in the class to follow)
- Caring for tack and equipment in a manner to preserve its life of usefulness.
- Adhering to all North Country RIDE policies and procedures.
- Maintaining professionalism at all times.

Timeframe:

- Commitment to attend class each week for the length of a session or find suitable substitute volunteer for anticipated absence(s)
- Estimated total weekly hours: two hours per class (more classes may be assigned)

Volunteer Benefits:

- Satisfaction of helping your community
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of what it means to live with a disability
- Learn about the care of horses
- Acquire community service experience for school, church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, personal resume, etc.
- Personal growth; development of new friendships