



Volunteer Horse Leader Job Description

Reports to: Volunteer Manager

Position Summary: To have responsibility for the horses immediately before, during, and immediately after sessions; i.e., prepare the horse for class, maintain safe spacing between horses, and assist the rider during class while maintaining control of the horse. Must follow the directions of the instructor and supporting his/her leadership role.

Qualifications:

- Minimum age of fourteen (14).
- Knowledgeable and comfortable working around a variety of horses.
- Volunteered as a sidewalker in an Adaptive Horsemanship class 5 times.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the Healing Reins Way.
- Able to halter, lead, and tack a horse (English and Western).
- Able to groom a horse safely and correctly.
- Must attend Leader Orientation, several Leader Practices and then participate in the Leader Mentoring Program before being Leader certified by two instructors and/or staff.

Guidelines:

- Follow Healing Reins safety and conduct guidelines at all times.
- Be open to feedback provided by EASP's and Volunteer Captains.
- Be willing to attend leader practice sessions if advised by the Volunteer Manager, Equine Manager, or other Equine Assisted Service Provider (EASP).
- Advocate for the horse and express any concerns to the instructor or Equine Manager.
- Ensure all are handled according to the Healing Reins way.
- Ensure your focus is on the horse, allowing any coaching of the rider to be carried out by the sidewalker and instructor.
- When possible, attend training and educational opportunities offered at Healing Reins.

Responsibilities:

- Arrive 30 minutes before class time.
- Bring in horse from the pasture/paddock before class starts.
- Warm-up horse in arena before class begins.
- Pre-groom the horse before the session starts.
- Ensure the horse is properly groomed and tacked, assisting the participant as needed.
- Lead the horse in a session and maintain communication with sidewalker(s) and/or participant.
- Communicate with sidewalkers if actions performed by the participant are negatively affecting the horse.
- Listen to and enact directions of the instructor.
- Untack the horse after class and put it away in pasture/paddock.
- Ensure tack used is treated with care and put away neatly and correctly.
- Clean up after your horse in the arena and in the grooming bays.



Horse Color Groups:

Horses are grouped by color based on their individual needs and the level of support they require from their leader. All new leaders are trained to work with horses who need the lowest level of support unless otherwise specified. Leaders must be approved by two designated instructors/staff members before moving up a color group.

- Green- The more experienced, predictable, and beginner-level herd members.
- Orange- Mid-level horses who may not be as push-button as the green horses. Often, horses who are new to the herd start off as orange horses before being moved down to green as they settle in. These horses may occasionally test their handler's boundaries, have a more forward movement, or specific quirks in how they prefer to be handled.
- Purple- Herd members who need the most support from their leader. This group often includes, but is not limited to horses who are large, demonstrating new or unwanted behaviors, have trouble in the mounting block, or feed heavily off the energy of the people around them. Leaders who work with purple horses are approved on a horse-by-horse basis.

To gain approval to move up a horse color group, a volunteer must:

- Demonstrate that they are capable and confident working with horses in their current approved color group.
- Attend leader practices and participate in the Leader Mentoring Program during scheduled lessons. All practice and mentoring sessions must be directly supervised by an approved Equine Assisted Service Professional (EASP). Leaders are not to work with horses outside of their approved color groups without permission or direct supervision.
- Demonstrate competency working with a horse in a higher color group in practice sessions.
- Complete a skills checklist for the appropriate color group, to be demonstrated to and signed off on by the two different approved EASP's. Purple horses are to be signed off on a horse-by-horse basis.