



Equine Assisted Learning & Therapeutic Riding Center

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Robinson Ranch Class Volunteer Training & Skills Testing

Thank you for volunteering at Robinson Ranch (RR). Volunteers are critical to the success of RR. We would not be able to provide a high quality program without you and we rely on you to help our program operate as safely as possible. We hope your experience at RR will bring you satisfaction, personal growth, and fulfillment. Your spirit of volunteerism is a valuable asset and "thank you" is just not enough to express our appreciation for your time and talents.

ABOUT PATH INTERNATIONAL

Robinson Ranch is dedicated to providing our students with a safe, professional and consistent educational experience. It is for this reason that we follow the standards and guidelines developed by The Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl).

PATH Intl. was founded in 1969 as the North America Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) to encourage best practices in the field of Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) through accreditation, instructor certification, and networking. PATH Intl. consists of over 850 member centers worldwide. Through these programs more than 40,000 individuals with disabilities benefit from activities, which include therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, equine assisted learning, carriage driving, interactive vaulting, and competition.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS & INSURANCE, LIABILITY RELEASE

No one under the age of 16 is allowed to work directly with our horses and riders due to insurance restrictions; however, underage youth are welcome to clean tack, sweep the stable area, etc. Because working with horses can be potentially dangerous, we ask that all prospective volunteers sign a liability release form.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

	The role of the Side Walker is to be an extension of the instructor in order to encourage the rider to grow and develop to their fullest potential.
Side Walker	Side-walking is the most hands-on position in a riding lesson and they have a significant influence on the success of the lesson. Side Walkers are directly responsible for the rider and provide supervision for the rider from the time they arrive until they leave. The role of the side-walker varies greatly between riders. It is important to have an understanding of the rider's needs and knowledge of their goals.
Horse Handler	Horse Handlers are responsible for haltering and leading horses between paddocks, grooming the horse, tacking the horse up for lessons, and making our horses feel loved and appreciated. Being a Horse Handler is a huge responsibility. Caring for our horses is an essential part of the program at Robinson Ranch.
Horse Leader	The role of the horse leader is to control the horse from the time it leaves the stall, throughout the lesson, and upon return to the stall or pasture area. The horse leader plays a major role in the learning process and safety of the rider.
Advanced Horse Handler	The leader is responsible for maintaining control of the horse; they need to be alert and aware of the horse's movement and behavior at all times, as well as staying tuned in to the rest of the Team. Pay attention to safety at all times.
	Advanced Horse Handler is the most advanced level of class volunteer. Advanced horse handlers build upon what they've learned and add tacking the horse for a lesson. Advanced Horse Handlers are trained to properly approach, halter, groom, and lead horses, in addition to having training in the different tack we use in lessons and how to put it on a horse and being sure that it fits properly.



VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS REQUIREMENTS

Side Walker

To become a Side Walker, you must be actively in the process of obtaining your 20 hours of maintenance volunteering at Robinson Ranch. Additionally, you must complete our four-week Side Walker Training class and pass the corresponding Skills Test.

Horse Handler

To become a Horse Handler, you must have obtained your 20 hours of maintenance and continue to be an active volunteer (either in the field of maintenance or assisting in classes as a Side Walker). You must complete our four-week Side Walker and our Horse Handler Training classes and pass the corresponding Skills Tests.

Horse Leader

To become a Horse Leader, you must have obtained your 20 hours of maintenance and continue to be an active volunteer (either in the field of maintenance or assisting in classes as a Side Walker or Horse Handler). You must complete our four-week Side Walker, Horse Handler, and Horse Leader Training classes and pass the corresponding Skills Tests.

Advanced Horse Handler

To become an Advanced Horse Handler, you must have obtained your 20 hours of maintenance and continue to be an active volunteer (either in the field of maintenance or assisting in classes as a Side Walker, Horse Handler, or Horse Leader). You must complete our four-week Side Walker, Horse Handler, Horse Leader, and Advanced Horse Handler Training classes and pass the corresponding Skills Tests.

WARNING: Under Arizona law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Arizona.