

Volunteer Training Program

First let me say thank you for your time, energy and enthusiasm. Valley Riding, Inc. appreciates YOU and we need and depend on you for our programs to be successful.

There is nothing more rewarding than to pass on knowledge to another and our hope is you will pass on your gained knowledge to the students you will be helping.

We recommend starting to volunteer for the pony camps and following your experience in that, you certainly can move onto Horse Camp and our other programs where volunteers are needed. Our Therapeutic Program you must be at least 14 yrs. old and there is a separate volunteer session. Please contact Barb Bower for further information.

Depending on your abilities and comfort level, volunteers may find it necessary to come to several training sessions. These training sessions will focus on practicing skills necessary to perform their job safely.

*Volunteer Training will run consecutively with the regular **10 week lesson schedule**, every Saturday from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Please meet in the front lobby. **No training** make-up week or during break between sessions.*

Since the class is limited to 6 people, sign up is required. Please find signup sheet on the clipboard in the office.

GOALS FOR VOLUNTEERING

- *Be Safe*
- *Be Responsible*
- *Share and Educate Others*
- *Have Fun*
- *Develop New Friendships*

Pertaining to Volunteers

- ***Volunteers must be 10 years old, a student at Valley Riding and have a current release form on file***
- ***Volunteers should have completed One 10 week Beginner 1 Session.***
- *Volunteers must be reliable and have a positive attitude, be enthusiastic and enjoy working with children.*
- *Volunteers need to wait up front in the lobby until instructor comes. **No Wandering** – Safety always first.*
- *Volunteers need to understand they are responsible for rider's safety, such as making sure riders do not walk behind ponies/horses.*
- *Students are looking up to you for guidance. Set a good example of Good Horsemanship. Don't mention negative things about horses/ponies.*
- *Ponies/Horses can have **NO TREATS** – fingers and carrots look alike.*

Pertaining to Horses/Ponies

- *Must be able to put on halters.*
- *Must be able to get ponies and horses out of stalls.*
- *Able to correctly put cross ties on.*
- *Correctly move the horse/pony over for passing horses.*
- *Be able to properly put saddle pads and saddles on – both English and Western.*
- *Must be able to safely lead ponies/ horses.*
- *Know how to help mount and dismount riders.*
- *Know how to slowly trot ponies and horses.*
- *Know what to do when the ponies/horses misbehave.*
- *Know how to show riders how to properly put tack away – this includes brushes put away properly in brush box and cleaning up aisles when finished grooming, lead lines etc.*
- *Be able to tighten cinches.*