

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.

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
- Make New Friendships

Pertaining to Volunteers

- Volunteers must be 8 years old, a student at Rocky River Stables and have a current release form on file
- Volunteers should have completed at minimum of a 10 week Beginner 1 Session or equivalent, such as Two Beginner English Horsemanship Classes.
- 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 campers/riders safety, like making sure campers/riders do not walk behind ponies/horses or keep them away from teeth or getting knocked over, etc.
- Volunteers need to conduct themselves around horses/ponies appropriately; realizing students are looking up to you for guidance. An example of Good Horsemanship is to know what is appropriate to say to campers/riders. 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 halters on ponies and horses.
- Must be able to get ponies and horses out of stalls.
- Able to correctly put cross ties on the horse/pony and 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 campers/riders.
- Know how to slowly trot ponies and horses.
- Know what to do when the ponies/horses misbehave.
- Know how to show campers/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.