

DESCRIPTIONS & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEER ROLES

Side Helpers

A side helper's role in class is to walk alongside their student's horse and help physically, by providing assistance with their balance, or providing encouragement and aiding in the students focus on the instructions their instructor is giving. Students are also given goals each session that the side helpers help track their progress on.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

To become a side helper, TRI requires you to attend a New Volunteer Orientation. These orientations are currently virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the New Volunteer Orientation, you will be asked to review our Training Videos, read the supporting materials and schedule a hands-on session with TRI's Volunteer Manager to practice the role of the side helper. After you have completed this one-time training, you will be eligible to sign up for lessons with our students. As a reminder, no horse experience is necessary to be a side helper. You are required to be 14 years or older to volunteer in our program and must be physically fit to walk and jog for periods of time in sand and uneven terrain for up to 45 minutes.

Horse Leaders

The horse leader's role in a class is to be in charge of their assigned horse. This means helping control the horse's pace, behavior and focus throughout the entire lesson while also helping our students gain as much independence as possible while riding their horses. Horse Leaders are responsible for tacking, warming up and untacking their horse while at the barn. Horse experience is necessary to be a horse leader.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

To become a horse leader with TRI, additional training will be required outside of the New Volunteer Orientation. We first ask that all potential horse leaders volunteer in at least 8 weeks of lessons with TRI as a side helper before going through horse leader training. This will give you the best idea of how our lessons are carried out for our riders. After you've completed 8 weeks of side helping, you can contact TRI's Volunteer Manager to schedule a horse leader training. These trainings will be scheduled on an as needed basis and may be in a small group setting depending on the need. In this training, you will be required to show knowledge of catching a horse in their stall or field, grooming, tacking and basic handling skills at the walk and trot. This training is pass or fail at the discretion of the Equine Manager and/or Volunteer Coordinator, with the opportunity to work on your skills and knowledge to re-test. To become a horse leader, you must have a solid foundation of horse behavior and handling skills.

Exercise Riders

Exercise riders are used to help keep our horses physically and mentally engaged outside of the class environment. Whether this means arena work with patterns or a simple trail ride around the farm, this helps our horses receive a fun mental break from the stress that can sometimes come in the class setting. Exercise riders need to be proficient in riding skills through the canter and have a good understanding of how to support the horse into a frame to engage their body to their full potential. You are asked to commit to riding once a week during an available timeslot arranged and will be assigned a horse at the discretion of TRI's Equine Manager.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

To become an exercise rider with TRI, we require you to be a working volunteer in our program as a horse leader or side helper for at least 8 weeks. If you are interested in becoming an exercise rider, we will ask you contact our Equine Manager to set up a time to perform a riding test. You must show the ability to safely walk, trot and canter a horse independently. These tests are pass or fail at the discretion of the Equine Manager.

Barn Chore & Facility Volunteers

TRI'S Barn Chore crew supports the TRI Barn Staff in the daily cleaning and caretaking of our equine partners. This includes but is not limited to cleaning stalls, scrubbing out feed tubs and water buckets, checking field troughs for water and cleaning if dirty, and other various chores to keep the TRI barn in tip top shape. Facility volunteers may assist with barn chores, in addition to helping with jobs such as mending fences, weed whacking, and any other maintenance type jobs the staff needs help with at the time. Barn chores and facility maintenance are completed in the morning hours while TRI staff is present.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in becoming a barn chore or facility maintenance volunteer, you will not be required to do any pre-training. To get started, you will come out for a tour of our farm and complete the necessary paperwork. You will then be able to sign up on our schedule for barn chores or facility maintenance. On your first day out at the farm, you will get a quick tutorial of how to clean a stall and perform basic barn chores with our Volunteer Manager.

Office Volunteers

TRI's office volunteers help with a variety of administrative tasks, such as filing, data entry, creating lesson materials, putting together mailings, and helping prepare for special events. This is a mostly indoor job and is completed during the daytime during TRI office hours.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

There is no training involved to be an office volunteer with TRI. To get started, you will come out for a tour of our farm and complete the necessary paperwork. You will then be able to sign up on our schedule for office hours. Duties for office volunteers vary from week to week.

If you would like to be trained for any role within the TRI organization you are qualified for, please contact TRI's Volunteer Manager at 937-317-4545.