

Strides Therapeutic Horsemanship Center

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Non Profit 501(c)(3) #20-8371068



Side Walker Volunteer

As a **Sidewalker volunteer** at Strides, you provide vital physical and emotional support to participants during lessons. Your role includes walking alongside the rider, offering stability, encouragement, and assistance as needed to ensure a safe and enriching experience.

A full 4-week session commitment is crucial, as participants rely on the consistency of their team to build confidence and trust. The relationship between the rider, horse, and sidewalker fosters growth, independence, and progress. Your dedication helps create a secure and encouraging environment, making a lasting impact on each participant's success.

Position: Side Waker

Organization: Strides

Location: On Site

Commitment: Commit to a 4 week session shift, plus make up week after (**5 week commitment**) same day, same times, same horse and rider combo each week.

Position Overview:

The Side Walker plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and support of riders during therapeutic riding sessions. This position involves walking alongside the rider, providing physical and verbal support as needed. Side Walkers assist in fostering a positive and therapeutic environment while working closely with the instructor, horse leader, and riders.

Key Responsibilities:

- Walk beside the rider during lessons to provide physical and emotional support.
- Follow the instructions of the riding instructor to ensure the safety and comfort of the rider.
- Assist the rider with mounting and dismounting as directed by the instructor.
- Monitor the rider's posture and stability, providing hands-on support if necessary.
- Communicate effectively with the instructor, horse leader, and other volunteers.
- Assist with preparing riders for lessons and providing post-lesson support.
- Follow all safety protocols and procedures to ensure a secure environment.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- No prior horse experience required, but comfort around horses is beneficial.
- Ability to walk for extended periods and provide physical support to riders.
- Comfortable working with individuals with disabilities in a respectful and patient manner.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills.
- Ability to follow directions and adapt to changing situations.
- Must be at least 15 but younger depends on maturity and height
- Completion of volunteer training and safety orientation.

Time Commitment:

- Minimum commitment of 4 week session, same day, time, and horse and rider combinations.
- Availability during scheduled lesson times: Varies per season, mornings, afternoons and evenings available.
- Attendance at periodic training sessions and meetings as required.

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities.
- Be part of a supportive and compassionate team.
- Develop communication and teamwork skills.
- Enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding volunteer experience.

If you are passionate about helping others and making a difference, we would love to have you as part of our team! To apply or learn more, please contact [Volunteer Coordinator's Name & Contact Information].