

Strides Therapeutic Horsemanship Center

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Volunteer Programs Manager

The **Horse Therapeutic Lessons Volunteer Programs Manager** is responsible for overseeing and managing volunteers involved in therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted activities. This role involves recruiting, training, and coordinating volunteers to ensure they are equipped to support both riders and therapy horses. The manager will create a welcoming, structured environment for volunteers, ensuring they understand their roles, maintain safety standards, and contribute to the success of therapeutic lessons. The position requires excellent organizational and leadership skills, as well as a passion for supporting individuals in need through equine therapy.

Position: Volunteer Programs Manager

Organization: Strides

Location: On Site

Commitment: 5 to 25 hours weekly

Position Overview:

We are seeking a dedicated **Volunteer Programs Manager** to lead and manage volunteers involved in our therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted activities. In this role, you will be responsible for recruiting, training, and coordinating volunteers, ensuring they are fully prepared to assist in providing a safe and supportive learning environment for both riders and therapy horses. You will guide volunteers on lesson days, ensuring horses are properly prepared, and assist with lessons as needed, maintaining a calm and structured atmosphere for the success of each session.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Volunteer Coordination:** Recruit, train, and manage a team of volunteers for therapeutic lessons.
- **Lesson Day Guidance:** Oversee volunteers on lesson days, ensuring they know their roles and responsibilities in preparing and assisting with lessons.
- **Horse Preparation:** Guide volunteers in getting therapy horses ready for lessons, including grooming, tacking, and ensuring horses are calm and ready to work.
- **Assistance During Lessons:** Support instructors by assisting with riders during lessons, ensuring riders' safety, and helping with mounting, dismounting, and other needs during the session.

- **Safety & Support:** Maintain a safe, structured environment by ensuring that all volunteers follow safety protocols and provide the appropriate support to both horses and riders.
- **Communication:** Serve as a liaison between volunteers, instructors, and other team members, ensuring smooth communication and efficient operations on lesson days.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Foster a positive, rewarding environment for volunteers, offering ongoing support, guidance, and feedback.
- **Scheduling & Record Keeping:** Maintain volunteer schedules, track hours, and ensure volunteers are matched with the appropriate lessons based on their skills and experience.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Experience working with horses and/or in therapeutic or riding lesson environments is preferred.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills with the ability to manage a team of volunteers effectively.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to engage and motivate volunteers.
- Knowledge of horse handling, grooming, and tacking procedures.
- Ability to stay calm under pressure and adapt to changing needs during lesson days.
- Passion for therapeutic horsemanship and supporting volunteers in providing a positive experience for riders.
- Flexibility to assist with lessons and volunteer coordination on lesson days as required.

This role is a wonderful opportunity for someone with a passion for horses, therapy, and volunteer management. If you are eager to lead a team that supports individuals in need through equine-assisted therapy, we encourage you to apply for the **Horse Therapeutic Lessons Volunteer Programs Manager** position.