



Saddle Pals Volunteer Crew Job Description

Position: Horse Leader

Reports to: Instructor and/or Volunteer Coordinator

Description: Individuals trained to lead horses during program classes while riders are mounted, and to assist students in learning how to lead

Job Responsibilities:

- Lead horse for a student rider during lessons
- Assure that a safety check of tack has been performed by the instructor prior to entering the mounting area
- Identifying any potential problems with the horse such as behavior issues or lameness, and reporting to the instructor
- Identifying any changes in the horses attitude associated with the behavior of the student or sidewalkers and taking steps to rectify the situation
- Assure that all people around the horse are conducting themselves in a safe manner
- Assist students who are learning how to lead their horses safely
- May be responsible for grooming and tacking horse, or assisting student in doing so

Qualifications:

- Minimum age of 16 years old
- Must have prior experience handling horses
- Must have an understanding of equine behavior and warning signs
- Commitment of at least one hour per week for at least one 10 week session
- Reliable
- Punctual
- Physically fit with no restrictions that would prevent moving, reacting, or responding quickly in the event of sudden movements by horse or student
- Able to walk and jog at a brisk pace for at least 30 minutes

Prerequisites:

- Completion of all required volunteer paperwork
- Must have successfully completed Sidewalker Training and worked as a sidewalker for at least one session
- Must have successfully completed Leader Training
- Must be able to demonstrate skills required for leading horses during program classes with various horses