

Volunteer General Information

Volunteers come to the program with a wide range of knowledge and experience. However, it is important that while working with WHRM riders and horses that you follow and teach ONLY the methods taught at your training, in the manual, or by our staff. There has been significant thought put into the methods used for our riders and our horses. Using multiple methods can be confusing to them. Training for program volunteers is mandatory. Training sessions are offered throughout the year.

Physical Considerations:

Side-walking and leading in the arena, as well as assisting in the stable and facility, can be physically demanding at times. It is important for you to inform WHRM staff if you have a condition such as high blood pressure, heart condition, allergies, etc., that may prevent you from working a half hour in the arena at a walk or a jog or walking on trails.

What to wear!

Volunteers should wear close-fitting clothing for both safety and comfort. Loose clothing can get caught and tangled in equipment. Long pants, such as jeans, riding breeches or other comfortable pants are recommended. For the sensitivity of our riders, revealing clothing (exposed belly shirts, low cut shirts, skin tight clothing, and see through clothing) will NOT be tolerated. Dangling jewelry should not be worn, as it can be unsafe. Close toed shoes are REQUIRED! And boots are highly recommended, but tennis shoes are acceptable. Open toed shoes, and sandals are not allowed when working near equines. Do dress weather appropriate (gloves, jackets, sunscreen, etc.)

Cancellation

If you are not able to make it to your scheduled class, please either email, text or call at least 24 HOURS ahead of time so we can locate another volunteer to assist in the class. If you know that you will be away for certain weeks, please let us know at the beginning of the session so we can make arrangements. We understand that emergencies can come up, but PLEASE make sure to let us know you will not be coming. Our riders need their volunteers, and without you, they are not able to ride.

Liability Release

Working with horses can be potentially dangerous. Because of this all prospective volunteers must sign the liability release for WHRM.

Parking/ Driveway

Please use caution when driving at the facility – Drive slowly, adhere to a 10 mph speed limit, and check for pedestrians and horses!