



## Volunteer Program Job Description

**Job Title:** Horse Leader or Side Walker  
**Department:** One Heart Stables  
**Reports To:** One Heart Stables Director  
**FLSA Status:** Volunteer/Non-compensated

**PURPOSE & GOAL OF THE POSITION:** Horse Leader/Side Walker Volunteers serve an important role in the function and flow of One Heart Stables (OHS). A Horse Leader/Side Walker provides a service focused on assisting clients by taking the responsibility of leading the horse and walking along both sides assuring the rider is safe and stable during Therapy Sessions. Horse Leader/Side Walker Volunteers enable One Heart Stables Equine Therapists to focus more direct attention on providing therapeutic experiences to the Children's Residential Center (CRC) residents, Encompass Outpatient clients, and special needs individuals who benefit from positive interaction/learning from Equine Therapy.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** It is the responsibility of each volunteer to be a consistent witness for Jesus Christ and to adhere to the Standard of Moral Conduct and Statement of Faith. Further, each volunteer is responsible for dealing with others with a Christ-like attitude while helping them experience their worth in Christ, and for demonstrating behaviors reflecting CCHO's core values of Relentless Commitment, Selflessness, and Kindness.

**ROLE: Horse Leader** – Primary responsibility is to guide the horse. Goal is to allow the rider to be as independent as possible. Responsible to guide, stop and start the horse, but should allow the rider to do as much of this as possible. Assist only when necessary or directed by the Equine Therapist. Focus attention on the horse at all times during the mounting process (from ramp or mounting block). Maintain awareness of riders needs and where horse is going during the session, along with enough room for Side-Walkers around obstacles and near fences. Keep the horse still when rider is dismounting.

**ROLE: Side Walker** – Primary responsibility is the rider/participant (not the horse). Goal is assist the rider in riding process. Reinforce lessons regarding helmets/grooming/riding before session and check for safety in attire, no gum, etc. Direct participant how to properly approach the horse and encourage interaction. After mounted, maintain position at rider's knee. Provide stabilizing contact as necessary and reinforce Equine Therapist's instructions to rider. Communicate to Horse Leader and Equine Therapist any time a stop is necessary. Always stay at rider's side close enough to assist if needed.

### PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 13 years or older
- Complete individual application and screening process (criminal background check [BCII and FBI])
- Anyone 18 or under must have CCHO Volunteering Permission Form signed by parent or legal guardian
- Any items discovered under OAC 5101:2-5-09 during an individuals' background check will render them ineligible for volunteer opportunities at CCHO
- Able to follow instructions and work as a team with other volunteers
- Physically capable of performing assigned task, including: walking, jogging, holding, bending
- Appropriate dress: Closed-toe shoes/boots, jeans/pants, t-shirt/long-sleeves
- Complete at least 1 hour of training with PATH Instructor
- Follow CCHO policies and procedures outlined in the CCHO Volunteer Handbook
- Be willing to communicate regularly with OHS Director, follow procedures for tracking volunteer service hours, and take constructive feedback regarding Horse Leader/Side Walker service
- Participate in Volunteer Program Surveys (post-training and post-serving)
- Be dependable, consistent and punctual in meeting the time commitments
- No use of illicit drugs; No use of alcohol or controlled substances in an inappropriate manner

**DESIRABLE QUALITIES:**

- Physical Fitness (45 minutes – 1 hour of continuous walking/short distance trotting)
- Able to be relaxed and calm, but also alert to anticipate an unexpected emergency
- Patient and Empathetic
- Working knowledge of horses
- Positive attitude and a team player
- Good listening skills and able to follow instructions

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

- Therapy sessions take place on Fridays and Saturdays. Sessions are normally 1 hour long so volunteers can help with one session or multiple sessions.
- Attend required 1 hour of training with PATH Instructor prior to serving

**APPLICATION & SCREENING PROCESS:**

- Written application
- Criminal Background (BCII and FBI) if over 18 years old (charges which fall under the Ohio Revised Code will be considered on a case by case basis)
- Anyone 18 or under must have CCHO Volunteering Permission Form signed by parent or legal guardian

**TRAINING & SUPPORT:**

- 1 hour of training with PATH Instructor
- Supervision of service tasks and assignments
- CCHO may require Criminal Background (BCII and FBI) at any time throughout the Horse Leader/Side Walker's service with CCHO

**BENEFITS:**

- Enjoy serving in a positive and supportive environment
- Learn new skills/gain experience working with people and horses
- Satisfaction in being part of the network of care bringing hope and healing to hurting CRC residents, Encompass Outpatient clients, and clients with special needs
- Earn community service credits; resume building community involvement; references for school and work
- Be part of a fun and rewarding experience!