



Hello!

Thank you for your interest in Ride Your Horse! Therapeutic Riding Program (R.Y.H.T.R.P.). We have volunteer opportunities working directly with horses and persons with disabilities. There are three main volunteer roles at Ride Your Horse! Please see the descriptions below:

Horse Leader: A Leader is a volunteer with a minimum of 2 years of horse experience and 1 semester of volunteering with R.Y.H.T.R.P. The leader leads the horse around the arena during the lesson, and is mainly responsible to maintain control and a strong/loving relationship with the horse.

Side-Walker: 1 to 2 volunteers will be needed to walk next to the person with disabilities while he/she is riding the horse. The Side-walker's main responsibility is to help the student complete the instructor's tasks through encouragement and simple reminders while maintaining the student's safety during the ride.

Arena Crew: Multiple volunteers will help set up and break down the arena with designated obstacles and games. The crew will help set out and put away tack and grooming supplies before and after lessons. The crew will also help clean stalls, tack, or grounds as needed. In addition, crew members can function as backups if the Leader or Side-walker is unavailable for a lesson.

The age range for volunteering is 12 years to adult. You do not have to have experience with horses or working with persons with disabilities. Volunteers will be provided training in basic horsemanship skills and an educational orientation on disabilities. It typically takes 3 volunteers to 1 rider to conduct a safe, beneficial riding lesson.

Semester Schedule:

- Lessons will be held on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at B & B Stables in Cerritos.
- Tuesday will be available for make-up sessions arranged with the instructor, and volunteers will be needed for this day as well although the schedule will vary from week to week with one week's advance notice.
- Lesson times are: 11:00am, 12:00pm, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:00pm, and 5:45pm. Volunteering on any day and time is currently available.
- At the beginning of each semester, volunteers will be assigned to a specific lesson and student with the role of Leader, Side-walker or Arena Crew. Volunteers must commit to supporting these lessons each week for the duration of the semester. If a volunteer is unable to attend one week, it is his/her responsibility to find a replacement from the assigned Arena Crew or from our "backup on-call list" at least 24 hours in advance of the lesson. The Volunteer Coordinator should be notified of any backup arrangements or any last-minute emergencies preventing a volunteer from attending. The student's "team" will maintain in a log book to help monitor their student's progress. This process is critical to building a strong relationship between rider and volunteer and ensures we have sufficient volunteers to conduct a safe, effective lesson.
- Volunteers with perfect attendance are eligible for our "Ride Your Horse Volunteer Rewards" program (see details in the "Volunteer" section of our website).

TO GET STARTED VOLUNTEERING:

Please contact our Ride Your Horse! TRP Volunteer Coordinator **Sandy Synstelien** at sandy@rideyourhorse.com to schedule an appointment time during a lesson day to view a 20 minute volunteer training video and observe a lesson. You will need to bring your completed, signed volunteer application available from the "Volunteer" section of our website. Please indicate the day and times you are available to volunteer.

All volunteers will be required to take a test on the basics of horsemanship and riding. For a \$30 fee (money goes back into the program) you will be given the material to study and within 4 weeks of volunteering you will be required to take the written test. The test includes a written portion and a riding portion. You DO NOT need to have any prior riding experience to take the test.

We are located at:

Ride Your Horse! Therapeutic Riding Program
B&B Stables
10730 Artesia Boulevard, Cerritos, CA 90703
Off the 605 Freeway/South Street(map available on our website)

Thank you again for your interest in helping with our program, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Darlene Harman President/Founding Director Ride Your Horse! Therapeutic Riding Program

www.rideyourhorse.com 714-292-3563