



LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION

REQUIRED SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- 14 years of age or older. Minors must have parental permission to volunteer.
- Friendly, flexible, dependable, and compassionate
- Strong communication skills
- Comfortable working with individuals who have special needs
- Sufficient horses handling skills to pass leader certification test
- In generally good health and able to walk for 30+ minutes and jog for short distances
- Able to accurately understand and follow directions from a direct supervisor in a fast-paced environment
- Willing to be outdoors in many weather extremes

REQUIRED TIME COMMITMENT

- Must be available for at least 90 minutes at the same time and day each week
- Must commit to a full 6-week riding session, or make suitable and timely arrangements otherwise
- Must attend initial 2-hour volunteer orientation and training

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Follow all Mountin' Hopes volunteer policies, procedures, and safety regulations
- Inform the Mountin' Hopes program coordinator in a timely fashion of any absences and follow the substitution policy
- Arrive 30 minutes before class starts
- Assist riders to groom and tack horses when no sidewalker is present
- Check horses for injuries
- Assist instructor in maintaining a safe environment
- Lead horse during the lesson or walking alongside the horse without a lead
- Remain focused on working with the horse and aware of potential hazards and risks to horse and rider
- Alert instructor of any horse or rider safety or health concerns

Mountin' Hopes Volunteer Training Horse Handler Qualifying Check List

Volunteers who have recent equine experience may qualify to be a horse handler in Mountin' Hopes therapeutic riding program. The following checklist serves as basic criteria for this responsibility. Volunteers must have at minimum a "Good" scoring in all categories to qualify.

MH staff will complete form and recommend that the volunteers is qualified to handle the horses (in either a leader position in lessons or as a feeder/horse care provider) or that more practice is needed.

		Needs Practice	Attempts	Good	Excellent	Notes
Successfully halter a loose horse						
Safely halt & walk on 3 times						
Safely lead at the walk	R circle					
	L Circle					
	Through cones					
Safely lead at the trot	R circle					
	L circle					
	Through cones					
Safely back up horse						
Move horse through gate						
<i>MH Recommendation</i>						