

Equine Trainer/ Equine Manager

Job Description

JoyRide Center, Inc.
29550 Tudor Way
Magnolia, TX 77355
281-356-5900



Job Goal:

Equine Trainer:

Support JoyRide Center's mission and values by developing and maintaining a well-trained herd of horses appropriate for equine assisted services.

Equine Manager:

Support JoyRide Center's mission and values by leading the team to ensure the JoyRide horses receive proper care for their health and well-being, as well as representing JoyRide to the public as the contact person for possible donations/leases of horses.

This is a full-time, salaried position of approximately 40 hours/week, 52 weeks per year

Qualifications:

Education: High School or above; Equine/Animal Science or relevant college study preferred, but not required

Certification: Certification as instructor by PATH Intl as a CTRI, Advanced, or Master level preferred, but not required; Certified in CPR and First Aid, or ability to obtain

Licensure: None

Experience:

1. Barn management with responsibilities encompassing nutrition, pasture management, and herd management
2. Interacting with the public and in educating potential donors about the benefits of therapeutic horsemanship
3. Training and riding horses as well as evaluating suitability of potential therapy horses
4. Working with groups of people, delegating tasks and monitoring outcomes
5. Establishing and maintaining a budget
6. Knowledge of tack and tack fit for a variety of horses
7. Working with groups – clients and their families, other instructors, therapists, administrative personnel, volunteers, and donors
8. Hauling horses both short and long distances

Special Knowledge and Skills:

1. Ability to ride and school a wide variety of horses (English, Western, bareback, etc.). Riding skill proficiency must meet PATH Certified Level criteria, demonstrating at a minimum: walk, trot (posting and sitting) & canter on a variety of horses and disciplines.
2. Broad knowledge of general horse care, stable management, herd psychology, equine anatomy, first aid, and basic medical care.
3. Demonstrated skill in handling horses from the ground, including: grooming, tacking, leading, groundwork, lunging, turning out/bringing in and handling gates

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4. Understand and recognize the special requirements and training needs of horses used in therapeutic riding
5. Able to assess horse's prior training, gaits, movement and temperament, and how these relate to special needs riders
6. Able to work independently and as a team member & to lead, organize and motivate volunteers
7. Familiarity with PATH Intl standards as they relate to horse management, selection, and training
8. Must be available some evening and weekend hours, with the ability to flex hours as appropriate.

Major Responsibilities:

Equine Training:

1. Develop and implement a schooling/conditioning program for the JoyRide horses (*including riding, lunging, long-lining and/or ground work*) for each horse at least once a week, taking into account each horse's work load
2. Maintain documentation of all schooling activities, behavioral issues, and areas of concern for each horse in a manner that can be accessed by instructors and other staff
3. Communicate regularly with the Horsemanship Program Manager & Instructor staff on the condition of the horses, and inform them immediately if a horse is unsuitable for use in the classes or needs medical attention
4. Oversee the care and condition of all tack, including repair, replacement or recommendations for new purchases
5. Review all tack for proper fit for each horse, develop and maintain a document showing appropriate tack fits for each horse
6. Build and lead a team of volunteers/staff, whose job will be to assist with the conditioning/schooling/ground work of all horses, taking into account the strengths of each member
7. Assist with the trailering of horses to scheduled events
8. Participate in staff meetings
9. Attend horse shows, and work with the Horsemanship Program Manager & Instructor staff to ensure safety and quality experiences for riders and horses.
10. Work with Volunteer Coordinator to develop and implement Horse Handler enrichment and Barn Buddy program.

Equine Management:

1. Schedule and keep records on all routine vet, farrier, dental, etc. care for all horses in accordance with PATH Intl. Standards
2. Develop an equine nutrition program including selecting feed/supplements/quantities and feeding schedules, ensuring sufficient quantities at all times are on site
3. De-worm horses on a regular basis according to vet recommendations.
4. Administer any temporary meds, or delegate to another staff member.

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5. Work with the Horsemanship Program Manager to ensure equine expenditures are within budget limits
6. Keep updated list of emergency numbers (vets, farrier, persons who can trailer in an emergency) and maintain updated emergency evacuation plans
7. Assist with the trailering of horses to veterinary appointments and scheduled events

General

1. Communicate effectively with clients, families, staff and volunteers
2. Adhere to PATH Intl Accreditation Standards for all aspects of the JoyRide program
3. Attend staff meetings as scheduled/available
4. Maintain professional credentials
5. Consistently support the activities of JoyRide Center – facility care, program development, fundraising, community activities, horse shows, and other special events.
6. Interact with all staff, volunteers, clients, and board members in a manner that reflects respect, integrity, and transparency.
7. Maintain confidentiality with regard to information about clients, staff, volunteers and internal issues related to JoyRide Center

Supervision/Personnel Management:

Assist the Horsemanship Program Manager in the supervision of the Facility/Equine Care Assistant & Equine Trainer Assistant

Physical Demands/Environmental Factors/Mental Demands:

Frequent prolonged walking in all types of extreme weather conditions (up to 6hrs); frequent bending/stooping, pushing/pulling, twisting, lifting and overhead lifting (75lbs or more); work involves training and riding horses with those inherent risks; may work prolonged and irregular hours; work with frequent interruptions; maintain emotional control under pressure.

Reports to: Horsemanship Program Manager

This document describes the general purpose and responsibilities assigned to this job and is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and duties that may be assigned or skills that may be required.