



Volunteer Quick Start Guide / Notes for Volunteers

Welcome to Equine Spirit Sanctuary (ESS). ESS is a licensed New Mexico horse rescue and 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing exceptional care for equines and meaningful horse-centered programs for our community. Volunteers are essential to this work. We are grateful you are here.

Before You Arrive

- Complete your liability release volunteer interest form.
- Wear sturdy closed-toe boots (no sandals or sneakers).
- Dress in close-fitting, weather-appropriate clothing.
- Bring water, sunscreen, and layers appropriate for the weather.
- Leave dogs at home.

When You Arrive

- Please arrive at 9 a.m. or the time specified in your volunteer email.
- Park in the designated area.
- Sign in (required for grant reporting).
- Check in with the Volunteer Coordinator or Instructor.
- Attend the team briefing and receive your assignment.
- Stay present and attentive throughout your shift.

During Programs

- Follow instructor direction promptly.
- Keep conversations minimal during sessions.
- Never leave a participant unattended.
- If you are unsure -- ask.

Your calm presence supports both horses and people.

Safety First - Always

Horses are powerful, sensitive animals. Safety depends on awareness and calm behavior. Please refer to the detailed volunteer guidelines for a complete description of how we work with horses at ESS. Take the time to learn the rules and procedures, and always work with another volunteer. Please limit your cell phone use to necessary calls only and do not listen to music or wear headphones while working around the horses. It's important to be present and alert when you are with the horses, not distracted!

Contact Information

Executive Director: Ruth Bourgeois ruth@equinespiritsanctuary.org 575-779-3431 (cell)

Volunteer Coordinator: Shannon Davidson

Office: 575-758-1212 (this number does not take text messages)

Address: 13 Los Caballos Road, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Thank you for being part of the Equine Spirit Sanctuary team!