



VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION SKILLS OUTLINE

BASIC CLEANING AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Volunteers are needed for cleaning and facility care, as well as horse care. This includes cleaning stalls, cleaning turnouts, cleaning and refilling water tanks, sweeping the barn aisle floor, cleaning the classroom and inside rooms, washing stall walls, cleaning tack, cleaning brushes, tidying up the hay storage areas as needed, fence work, etc.

We begin every open day with cleaning. We often have visitors and the first impression that we want them to get is of a clean, well-organized, neat facility and well cared for horses.

HORSEMANSHIP AND HORSE CARE

Horse Handling – grooming, leading and basic handling and program work:

- Learn to groom with attention and intention, with focus on getting comfortable handling horses and donkeys, learning to read their body language, building confidence in both equine and person.
- Learn safety protocol when working with equines.
- Learn to observe the equine and recognize if they are stressed, fearful, timid, tense or relaxed, confident, their overall mood, if they are a willing participant in the activity, where their attention is.
- Learn how to change from the negative to a positive experience for the equine and person also. This includes everything from basic brushing to cleaning the hooves.
- Basic leading skills using body language, energy, and voice commands.
- Helping with equine-assisted services programs: helping with therapeutic or kids' riding lessons and Read to the Donkeys programs. Training for these programs is held in May, with the programs typically starting at the end of May or first week of June. Details for these positions are outlined in the volunteer handbook.

ADVANCING SKILLS (once skills in the above areas have been developed):

- Horse Bodywork – Masterson Method, T-Touch
- Horse Handler for equine-assisted therapeutic activities and services
- Hoof trimming / hoof care
- Basic training

OTHER WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP:

- **Fundraising:** Work with an experienced ESS staff person or volunteer. There are numerous free resources on the internet that you can start with to learn more. We also have reference books in the office. Help find sponsors for the ESS equines.
- **Office:** Routine office work and record keeping.
- **Outreach:** Special events and social media to promote the programs and work of ESS.
- **Assisting with events / public relations:** This typically includes a spring open house and the annual Holiday Open Barns, table at local businesses, annual fundraising event with the donkeys at Barbara Meikle's gallery in Santa Fe. Greeting visitors and showing them the facility.