

Eagles' Wings Therapeutic Riding Center Seeks Volunteers

Eagles' Wings Stable, a small 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, is seeking volunteers for our next eight-week riding session which begins in **September 2020**. Eagles' Wings provides equine-assisted therapeutic activities for people with special needs, to benefit and improve their development and quality of life. Volunteers typically help out once a week for approximately one to two hours. A volunteer orientation is held before the start of the session. Our next orientation will be on Saturday, **August 29** at 9:00 a.m. at the Eagles' Wings Therapeutic Riding Center located at 5730 N. Washington Road, Piqua, OH.

The first hour of the orientation will cover the role of the Side Walker. The main responsibility of the side walker is the rider. The side walker helps maintain the balance of the rider when they cannot do so for themselves, they clarify instructions and directions when needed, and they provide reassurance and encouragement to the rider. Subjects to be covered include:

- Working with people
- Appropriate relationships with riders
- Helping prepare horses for class - grooming and tacking
- Assisting with rider support during mounting and dismounting
- Proper positioning and rider support
- Helping the rider follow directions given by the instructor
- Dealing with emergencies

The second hour of the orientation will cover the roles of the Horse Leaders and Barn Buddies. Folks who want to be a Barn Buddy will go to the stable and be with our Barn Buddy Coordinator. Horse Leader candidates will remain in the arena. The main responsibility of the Horse Leader is the horse. The Horse Leader is to maintain the safety of the horse at all times. Subjects to be covered include:

- Paying attention to your horse and their body language
- Leader responsibilities in mounting
- Proper positioning of the Horse Leader
- Proper distancing between other horses
- Following the directions of the instructor
- Dealing with emergencies
- Leader responsibilities in dismounting
- Providing after class feedback to the instructor

Interested volunteers should complete the Volunteer Interest Areas Form and the Volunteer Application Form both of which are available on the Eagles' Wings website: <https://www.eagleswingsstable.org/volunteer> prior to coming to the orientation.