

Hidden Haven Farm Sanctuary & Education Center Volunteer Levels

Level 5: All NEW Volunteers with no horse experience (or prior to testing)

- Minimal or NO horse experience
- Clean fields
- Clean water buckets
- Clean feed buckets
- Fill water buckets
- Clean/fill outside troughs
- Clean and organize brush boxes
- Clean and straighten tack room
- Operate the PENALTY BOX gate system correctly
- Pull hay
- Dump wheel barrows
- Distribute hay with supervision
- Learning to identify basic tools and locations kept
- Learning basic barn safety rules and procedures
- Learning to approach a horse safely: tied/secured or loose in stall, field, hallway
- Learning to feed treats by hand safely

Level 4

- Knows basic safety rules
- Clean stalls with supervision
- Feed horses with supervision
- Learning Grooming (includes names of all tools, proper use, reasons for use, steps, reasons for grooming, care of tools)
- Learning to halter properly
- Identify basic parts of the halter and lead and locations kept
- Learning to lead a horse properly (position, walk, stop, turn, back)
- Learning to place a horse in crossties properly
- Can identify most of the individual horses
- Hay horses without supervision
- Demonstrates how to safely approach a haltered horse and attach a lead

Level 3

- Knows all the individual horses
- Knows stall assignments
- Knows field assignments
- Demonstrates proper and safe haltering of a loose horse
- Demonstrates proper and safe leading and cross tying

- Turn horses out
- Bring horses in
- Blanket with supervision
- Set up feed with supervision
- Learning basic feed types
- Learning basic supplements
- Learning signs of a horse in distress
- Learning basic hoof care, can assist holding for farrier
- Learn to hot walk a horse
- Learn to hose a hot horse: reasons, methods, health concerns
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Level 2

- Set up feed without supervision
- Blanket without supervision
- Knows basic feed types
- Knows basic supplements
- Knows the basic chores of the feed shifts (all seasons)
- Learning basic first aid
- Can recognize a horse in distress
- Learning vital signs and required vet information
- Learning body condition scoring system
- Learning advanced hoof health including farrier schedule
- Learning basic veterinary care: vaccination schedule, de-worming schedule, disease prevention, etc.
- Learning wraps: polo, standing, shipping, application of boots
- Learning leg care: anatomy, cold hosing, poultices, etc
- Learning Dentistry
- Learning lounging and more intricate halter skills
- Learning basic trailer loading, maintenance, packing and safety

Level 1

- Knows the entire chore list of a feed shift and can complete a shift without supervision
- Can blanket without supervision
- Understands different blanket types, uses, fit and adjustment
- Knows all feed types used and indications
- Knows all supplements used by our horses and indications
- Learning advanced veterinary care: emergencies, disease processes, body condition scoring, first aid and vital signs
- Can pinpoint the general source of a horse's distress and report on it
- Can pinpoint a lameness or injury and report on it
- Capable of performing a basic health exam
- Understands basic and more specialized dental care

- Can handle a horse at walk and trot and on the lounge line
- Can load and unload a trailer including hooking up to the tow vehicle

Shift Leader

Separate assignment and examination based on ability to be a level 1 volunteer, to perform a full feed shift by oneself (unsupervised) and to the ability to teach/supervise new volunteers.

Barn Volunteer Staff

Volunteer staff must pass the level 1 volunteer rating, the shift leader rating, be available for shift leader assignments a minimum of 2 days per week and have the following additional knowledge/skills:

- Know full information on each horse- name, breed, age, current/past medical, health and/or behavioral issues
- Know the personality of each individual horse in the program
- Know general history (intake) of each horse
- Know stall assignments
- Know turn out assignments
- Know dynamic of each individual in the herd group
- Understand each ailment as it pertains to each individual horse: disease/illness, process, transmission, diagnosis, symptoms and care (both critical, clinical and maintenance)
- Recognize symptoms of the various ailments as presented by our horses
- Understand basic disease process as pertains to diseases vaccinated against and diseases common to our geography
- Recognize potential disease vectors
- Understand basic medications (prescription) used in our facility: types, indications, dosages
- Recognize illness, lameness and be able to work through pinpointing the source
- Take vitals and know the ranges of normal
- Track vitals and weight
- Manage horses in training/lessons/general work (overall condition)
- Assist vet/farrier/dentist in holding horses and general assistance
- Know basic restraint
- Ability to take detailed observations and relay important information to the manager and program director