



Staff and Volunteer Policy

1. No tobacco, drugs or alcohol will be allowed on Buckboard property, EVER.
2. All volunteers will be asked to wear proper attire:
 - Shorts must be mid-length; we are working with impressionable young children
 - No tank tops or low-cut shirts- children are sitting higher and can see things
 - No undergarments showing- practice professionalism at all times
 - Keep jewelry to a minimum- some small children are “grabbers”
 - Closed-toe shoes must always be worn- protect your feet!!
 - Please avoid perfumes- horses can have fright responses to strange smells.
 - Please wear your name tag sticker 😊
3. Staff and volunteers are asked to arrive 15 minutes before riders are scheduled to help prepare.
4. Please see to it that all equipment is properly taken care of- sanitized and stored.
5. Volunteers are allowed to participate in rider activities AFTER called upon by the instructor. Communication is part of the foundation. The instructor WILL incorporate all volunteers during instruction. Please have a name tag 😊
6. Volunteers are encouraged to relax- feel free to bring your own drinks, and utilize a cubby as needed.
7. No unauthorized person may enter the arena at any time while riding sessions are taking place.
 - Authorized persons are staff, current volunteers, and cleared individuals.
8. Please call (308) 672-6313 if you are unable to attend your scheduled volunteering time. Rides will be jeopardized if volunteers cannot be found to replace you.

- Please pre-plan any absences in advance!

9. Safety is our main concern!

- Please keep noise to a minimum. This is a safe place for our horses and some children are sensitive.
- Socializing is permitted between sessions and during breaks. Please pay attention, in case the instructor needs you during a session.
- Verbal instruction is to be given by instructor only, unless otherwise specified. Children can become confused, which can lead to becoming overwhelmed.
- Cell phones must be shut off or always silenced in the arena.
- Be aware of “horse speak”: watch for signs of distress or anxiety in the animal. Your side vantage point is ideal.
- Communicate with your partner side-walker before the session begins. One side-walker is a “puller” and another will be the “pusher” in the event of a child having to be removed.
- NEVER, EVER let go of a child. Your job is vital!
- Be mindful of the child’s foot in the stirrup- it can become tangled in an emergency.
- Be mindful of your body. Try to walk at a smooth pace and avoid stepping hooves. You’re attached via a gait belt to a child who is sitting on 1,000lbs.
- Always, Always, Always treat the animals and people around you with respect and dignity. We are all part of a working team!