

Instructor Certifications

NARHA Instructor Certification

The North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) offers three levels of certification for therapeutic riding instructors; Registered, Advanced and Master. Specialty Discipline Certification is also available for driving. Therapeutic riding instructors that teach at NARHA Centers are required to achieve (one level of) NARHA Instructor Certification status. The criteria at each level details the skills and knowledge an instructor of that level must possess regarding Equine Management, Horsemanship, Instruction, Teaching Methodology and Disabilities. All evaluations of instructor applications, at all three levels, regardless of certification method, are based on these criteria. *Windridge requires that all instructors achieve the Advanced Level Certification to maintain employment. Instructors currently at the Registered level are working towards the Advanced.*

Registered Level

A NARHA Registered Instructor is able to conduct a safe, basic equestrian lesson to individuals with disabilities. Instructors can be certified at the Registered level by attending and successfully completing a NARHA approved training course or by attending a NARHA Registered On-Site Certification and accompanying criteria.

Advanced Level

A NARHA Advanced Instructor is knowledgeable in horsemanship and understands disabilities and their relationships to therapeutic riding. This instructor is able to conduct safe, challenging and therapeutically effective lessons to individuals with disabilities. Instructors can be certified at the Advanced level through hands on evaluation and written examinations at a NARHA Advanced On-Site Certification.

Master Level

This is the highest level of certification. A NARHA Master Instructor has a strong background in horsemanship and thorough knowledge of disabilities and their relationship to therapeutic riding. A Master Instructor has the ability to step into any instruction situation in the field of therapeutic riding and take charge effectively. This instructor is also capable of training other therapeutic riding instructors. Master level certification can be obtained via an On-Site Certification which involves testing through hands on evaluation and written examinations. This certification can also be obtained through reciprocity. Reciprocity is the recognition of a certification offered through another certifying body or organization that is equivalent to or exceeds the criteria required of a NARHA Master Instructor.

Driving Instructor Certification

The NARHA Driving Instructor certification program is offered for individuals who seek certification in their own specialty discipline. The Certified Driving Instructor is able to drive a variety of horses to different vehicles, over varying terrain. This instructor has a thorough knowledge of driving skills, teaching driving and the ability to safely direct a driving program. The instructor is capable of supervising others as assistants and volunteers in a driving program. The NARHA Driving Certification program offers two levels of certification for potential driving instructors, depending on their experience, knowledge and skills.