

Volunteering at Windridge

It is the desire of the board of directors and staff at Windridge that each volunteer receive satisfaction from investing their time and energy while volunteering with us. We appreciate individuals stepping forward to become volunteers and we hope you will find that your time is valuable to the success of our organization. You are the lifeblood of Windridge.

Your first introduction to Windridge will be with our Volunteer Coordinator. She will explain our policies, introduce you to the staff and horses, and answer any of your questions. You will be asked to fill out a volunteer application and you will receive a volunteer handbook on your first visit.

Knowledge of children and adults with disabilities or horses is not necessary to begin volunteering. Windridge is committed to teaching our volunteers. Volunteers will be taught the necessary safety practices and skills needed. Volunteers are supported throughout their volunteer time by experienced volunteers and Windridge staff.

Volunteers are the necessary support our instructors need to provide beneficial therapeutic horsemanship classes. As a volunteer, your efforts will be important to Windridge's daily operations. The following are ways volunteers assist Windridge program participants, staff, and horses:

- Aid instructors in the care of horses.
- Assist in the preparation of a class.
- Provide help during a class time.
- Care for our tack and equipment.

- Grooming and tacking horses prior to class.
- Assisting with facility maintenance.
- Helping with a special project.
- Volunteers who wish to use their talents in a specialized fashion are encouraged to discuss these talents with our Volunteer Coordinator. Talents may range from photography, welding, painting, or computer skills to mention a few.

You may have other specialties in these following areas:

- Helping our Office Manager/Instructor in the office with clerical work.
- Working alongside our Executive Assistant/Instructor seeking grants and grant writing.
- You can work with our Marketing Manager on future ideas to promote Windridge.
- Helping our Facility Manager/Instructor with facility maintenance.

Volunteers who wish to aid Windridge in other areas may talk with our Volunteer Coordinator and Executive Director about:

- Sitting on our fundraising committee – *Friends of Windridge*. These dedicated committee members are responsible for our annual fundraiser, *Horse & Rider*.
- As a volunteer you may be interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

If you choose to volunteer with us, we hope you will enjoy your time with us and that you find volunteering at Windridge a relaxing and

enjoyable experience. We thank you for your interest in volunteerism.

The Difference You Will Make

Individuals who volunteer are the lifeblood of Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center and without their time and hands our students could not be served. There are many ways you can be a part of Windridge and make a difference in the life of a child or adult with a disability.

Benefits

- Gratitude from our students and their families.
- Appreciation of time invested by our instructors.
- Knowledge gained and skills developed.
- Positive reception from the horses when caring for them.

Requirements

- Time – We want your volunteer time to be a blessing to you as well as to others and to accomplish this it is important to work with your schedule when planning the time you will be volunteering with us.
- Willingness to assist others and learn the necessary skills needed to provide safe and productive class times for our students. We do not expect you to have prior knowledge of children and adults with disabilities nor horses.
- Commitment – The success of our therapeutic horsemanship programs depends on volunteerism.

How Do I Get Started?

- Call the Windridge office (903) 797-2414 and speak with our Volunteer Coordinator OR

E-mail Windridge at windridgetx@aol.com

- Set up a time with our Volunteer Coordinator to tour the Windridge facility.
- Coordinate your schedule with Windridge's with our Volunteer Coordinator.

We value your interest in Windridge and volunteering. The information provided is a general and brief overview of volunteering at Windridge. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in any way, please call the Windridge office at (903) 797-2414 and speak with our Volunteer Coordinator. It is her desire to answer any questions and help you make a difference in someone's life.

