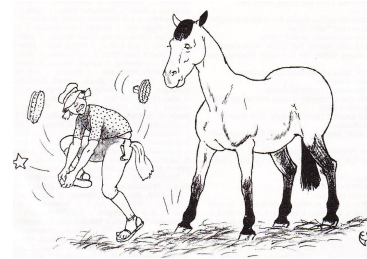


VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

1. We recommend volunteers be at least 14 years of age. Younger volunteers may be accepted under special circumstances. Parent/Guardian must sign that they give permission for their child to participate. No volunteer under the age of 18 should be allowed to participate unless two volunteers are present.
2. All volunteers must read the information and complete the forms in the New Volunteer Packet including the liability release, Emergency Medical Treatment and application form.
3. Following your application you will be introduced to a mentor who will guide you through your training. You will receive orientation to explain the safety and procedural rules of the program. Volunteer training is scheduled for the first and third Saturday of each month at Rush Ranch.
4. Name badges for all volunteers are kept in the tack room and must be worn at the ranch and events. On the back side of the badges are check-off lists showing tasks you have been certified to do. Be prepared to show that you are certified if asked.

5. Wear sturdy closed-toed shoes when working around horses. Rubber boots are acceptable for muddy weather and washing horses. Riders must wear boots/shoes with well-defined heels. Comfortable clothes, preferably without "slogans" that might offend, a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.



6. Volunteers should do the following:
 - Actively share your opinions, comments, and experiences.
 - Work cooperatively and be sensitive to the feelings of others.
 - Refrain from gossip regarding clients and fellow volunteers.
 - Respect the needs of fellow volunteers and clients (including special understanding of behaviors that may be precipitated because of their disability).
 - Refrain from discussions of client and volunteer medical conditions, inappropriate jokes, and swearing.
 - A guideline when working with clients is to keep in mind that racial, cultural, sexual, religious and political comments should be avoided. Lack of sensitivity and understanding of these guidelines lowers the level of professionalism we strive for.
 - Arrive on time and give advance notice if you are unable to do so.
 - Accept full responsibility for any task you undertake and follow it through to its conclusion, following Access Adventure protocol.
 - Abstain from alcohol, smoking and illicit drug use when participating in any Access Adventure activity. Prescription medications are acceptable as long as they don't affect one's ability and awareness to do their assigned duties. Smoking is strongly discouraged but is allowed only on the benches beneath the flag. No smoking within 50 feet of any participant or animal.