



Reining Hope Adaptive Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies LLC

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"Wish It, Dream It, Do It!"

Reining Hope AEAAT, LLC Volunteer Program

Thank YOU – for your interest in volunteering at Reining Hope AEAAT, LLC! Volunteers at Reining Hope contribute a tremendous amount of support for our programs – the time, dedication and energy you provide is always appreciated and welcomed!

Reining Hope Mission and History

The mission of Reining Hope is to provide adaptive equine assisted activities and programs, both mounted and unmounted, to individuals living with special needs in a safe, enjoyable and compassionate environment. By partnering with our equines, we are able to enhance the experience and challenge for our participants as they strive to reach their full potential and progress within their own “extra-ordinary” abilities physically, cognitively and/or emotionally.

Located in Morgan, VT, Reining Hope AEAAT, LLC was established on October 10, 2011 and became a PATH International Member Center May 2012. This is a new therapeutic riding center offering equine assisted activities – both mounted and unmounted – for persons with and without special needs. Kristin Mason is the owner/operator of Reining Hope and serves as the Program Director.

Kristin has been a PATH International certified Advanced Therapeutic Riding Instructor since April 2001 but had over 5 years experience partnering with horses to work with persons with special needs prior to her certification. She has worked with participants ages 2 – 84 years with such special needs including, but not limited to: Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Autism, Hearing impairments, Visual impairments, Traumatic Brain Injury, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, and many more physical, cognitive and mental health disorders. Kristin is also a PATH International certified ESMHL (Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning).

Reining Hope operates year-round, offering four semesters – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Semesters run between six and ten weeks in length. Days and hours of operation vary depending on the semester (see class/semester schedule).

Reining Hope also offers equine-related workshops and clinics throughout the year! For more information, please see the Reining Hope website at www.reininghopeaeaat.com, like us on Facebook by searching “Reining Hope AEAAT LLC” or contact Kristin at kris12mase@yahoo.com .

Facility

Reining Hope is a newly built center (completed early January 2013) on 38 acres of scenic farmland. The facility includes an older existing barn for personal use by the owners as well as additional space for workshops and clinics, great scenic views, approximately 10 acres of paddocks, 10 acres of hay fields and 18 acres of wooded area where trails for riding and hiking have been commenced. The primary buildings are: an attached 60' x 90' 10-stall barn with wash stall and feed room; office area with observation room and large welcome room; and, a 70' x 144' indoor riding arena with built-in mounting area. There is also an outdoor round pen at the facility.

Full-time and seasonal equine boarding is available as space allows.

Volunteer Requirements

All Volunteers MUST attend a Volunteer Orientation & Training session before starting to volunteer at Reining Hope AEAAT, LLC. Further training is available and may be required dependent on what your volunteer role(s) will be with Reining Hope.

Recommended Age: The recommended minimum age for volunteers is 14 years. Volunteers under the age of 14 years may be considered if they are intermediate to advanced equestrians or if a parent volunteers directly with them (based on Reining Hope needs).

Ability to Work Independently: As a smaller PATH International center, Reining Hope has limited staff resources. We rely on volunteers to be able to work with minimal staff supervision.

Volunteer Roles: Prior experience is not required to volunteer. Volunteers are needed to assist our riding program as sidewalkers with the riders, and as horse leaders if they have had prior horse experience. Volunteers assist with unmounted equine activities such as grooming and tacking. Volunteers are also needed to assist with stable chores, care of the facility, support office staff and assist with special events. Some areas of volunteering require moderate physical exercise, so please ensure you are comfortable with the physical aspects of the volunteer role you select.

Scheduling & Commitment: Individuals must be available a minimum of one hour per week, the same day and time each week, to volunteer. New volunteers receive their assignment and schedule following their attendance in a Volunteer Orientation & Training session. Volunteer assignments and schedules are based on interest, experience, availability and need of the program. A calendar of upcoming class dates is available for your convenience.

Registration Paperwork: Please complete the enclosed paperwork and return it to Reining Hope.

Minors must have the parental signature on the Registration Paperwork to participate in a Volunteer Orientation & Training session and to volunteer.

New Volunteer Orientation & Training: New volunteers are required to attend a Volunteer Orientation & Training session. Sessions are conducted monthly – or as needed - and include both classroom and hands-on training. *Because of the nature of the services we provide, Reining Hope reserves the right to make the final determination as to the appropriateness of volunteers for our organization. The first semester of volunteering is considered a trial period.* Please contact the Program Director and/or Volunteer Manager to discuss your volunteer interest and schedule the training session that works best for you schedule (see schedule of Volunteer Orientation & Training).

Directions to Reining Hope

For easy directions to Reining Hope, go to www.maps.google.com and search “Reining Hope AEAAT LLC” in Morgan, VT. If you need further assistance, please call Kristin at Reining Hope at 802-895-9166.