



**West Virginia Horse Network, INC.
Barn Buddies - Leadership Development Program**

Child's Name: _____ Age/Grade Level: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Who referred you to the program? _____

Does participant have any previous experience with horses? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you have access to transportation to bring the participant to Alum Creek area of Lincoln County? Yes No

Will the participant be able to volunteer at the barn at least 4 times per month (or approximately 6 hours a month)? Yes No

Children will be expected to adhere to a code of conduct. They will get out of the program what they invest. They will be required to journal their experiences. We will also ask the parent or guardian to keep us informed of the child's classroom achievements and grades so that we can help the students meet their goals. Are you and the participant willing to adhere to these expectations? Yes No

Does participant have any health concerns, allergies or other medical limitations that we need to know about? *(no one will be excluded because of these)* Please include any limits on lifting, physical exertion etc. _____



PERSONAL GOALS (for participant):

What would you consider your biggest personal weakness (as a person, not relating to horses)?

What would you consider your biggest strength (as a person, not relating to horses)?

List three words that people would use to describe you:

List three words you'd use to describe yourself:

What school subject is your best?

What school subject is your worst?

Older children:

What is your current G.P.A? _____ What would you like it to be? _____

Younger children:

Please list what your grades were on your most recent report card?

Please list what you'd like them to be:

Do you have any problems with your behavior that you, your parents or your teacher believe you need to work on? Please explain: _____

What do you want to be when you grow up? _____

Do you consider yourself a leader?

(explain) _____



HORSE RELATED GOALS (for participant):

Why do you want to work with rescue horses? _____

What do you hope to learn about horses through your participation in the program?

Do you know how to lead a horse? YES NO

Do you know how to groom a horse? YES NO

Do you know how to ride a horse? YES NO

If yes what level would you consider yourself (circle one)?

BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED

Do you want to take riding lessons? YES NO

Do you want to show rescue horses in horse shows? YES NO

If you answered yes to the two previous questions are you willing to follow the program to earn these privileges? YES NO

Will you be available to volunteer during the evenings (after 8 p.m.)? YES NO

Will you be available to volunteer on weekends (after NOON)? YES NO

Please list two or three ideal days and times that you CAN volunteer per week. We prefer to have only a few children at a time for their safety and so that they can receive the maximum benefit from the program. We will ask you to be as flexible as possible. You do not have to permanently commit to a certain day now. You can communicate with program administrators weekly to arrange a day and time to volunteer as you are available. This is merely to give us a general idea of your availability:

BARN BUDDIES - CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Participation** - Space is limited in the Barn Buddies Program. If you sign up for the program we expect your long term commitment. Participants are required to volunteer and work with the horses at least 4 times or a total of 6 hours per month. Simply being at the barn is not considered "participation". You must focus on the task at hand and actively engage in the activities with the horses. You should not bring youth guests along that are not enrolled in the program (siblings may stay with a parent but must stay away from the horses for their safety). We expect your full focus and attention. *Parents please note - we do not own the stable where the activities take place. We board horses at the facility. Barn Buddies participants are only allowed to be at the stable when accompanied by one of the approved instructors. You may not drop in without a prior appointment. The stable is a place of business where the owners are conducting lessons and other paid boarders are spending time with their horses.*
- **Safety** - Horses are extremely dangerous. Even the very best horse can harm a human accidentally if the horse is spooked. It will be crucial that parents instill in children the importance of learning and following the safety guidelines that are provided by instructors. This will include things that can be difficult for children such as being calm and quiet. If you are unable to follow the safety guidelines provided you will be given two formal warnings. On the third instance you may be suspended from the program or dismissed.
- **Respect** - You will be expected to behave in a respectful manner. This includes following the rules of the program. You shall be respectful to instructors, to the horses and to the other volunteers. You will be expected to have a positive attitude about the program, the horses, yourself and your participation.
- **Be Kind** - One of the primary goals of this program is to build leadership skills. Therefore participants will be asked to be encouraging to their peers. You shall use positive words when talking to and describing one another and the activities. Do not use words such as stupid, dumb, ugly, fat, etc.
- **Dress Appropriately** - Horses are heavy. They have big hooves. They crush toes. For this reason you **MUST** wear appropriate footwear to the barn. You will get dirty. Please dress appropriately for the weather as well. No shorts.
- **Follow Your Plan** - Based on the personal and horse related goals we will come up with a individual set of goal for each participant. You will be expected to work toward those goals in order to continue participating in the program. Access to lessons and showing will be **EARNED** not **GIVEN**. You must follow your individual program and complete the outlined steps. You will be provided with a notebook with your goals listed inside. You (with the help of your parents if needed) will be expected to keep a journal about each visit to volunteer and about your progress toward your listed goals. You will be asked to share this journal with the program administrators when you come to volunteer. You will also be required to do a presentation at the end of the year about what you learned and how you have worked to reach the goals that you set. You **MUST** track your progress in this fashion as a stipulation of the grant. This **IS** required.

Please sign to indicate that you have read and are willing to adhere to the COC:

Parent

Participant

Date

**West Virginia Horse Network, INC.
Barn Buddies Participation Waiver**

For participation in the Barn Buddies Program

I, _____ (parent/guardian) am the parent, guardian, custodian or other legal representative of _____ (child) who I wish to allow to participate in Barn Buddies activities including riding and handling of horses. I acknowledge that West Virginia Horse Network, INC. is hosting equine activities at a stable where rescue horses and privately owned horses are boarded. My child has my consent to ride or otherwise handle horses and ponies and be around them whether from the ground or mounted. I recognize and acknowledge that my and my child's participation in such activities and any other activities which may include equine activities, involves the possibility of inherent risks including, but not limited to, the following:

- ~ The propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, death, or loss to persons on or around the equine;
- ~ The unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals;
- ~ Hazards, including, but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions;
- ~ A collision with another equine, another animal, a person, or an object;
- ~ The potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury, death, or loss to the person of the participant or to other persons, including, but not limited to, failing to maintain control over an equine or failure to act within the ability of the participant. _____initial here

With full knowledge of the above and any other inherent risks which may be associated with equine activities, I hereby consent to my and the above listed child's participation in the above described activities and waive any and all claims for tort or civil actions of any kind which I or my heirs, personal representatives and next of kin may have or which may arise against West Virginia Horse Network, INC. and it's board of directors and volunteers and the barn property owners as a result of my participation in such equine activities. _____initial here

On behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives and next of kin, I hereby release and discharge West Virginia Horse Network, INC. and the stable property owners, their successors, assigns, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, and agents from any and all liabilities, claims, lawsuits, losses, costs, causes of action and damages of any kind originating or in any way arising from, my participation in such equine activities. I understand and acknowledge that sponsors of this program are also protected by this waiver. _____initial here

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT THE TERMS OF THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY READ, ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND ARE VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF MY AND THE ABOVE LISTED CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED HEREIN.

_____ Printed Name of Participant
_____ Printed Name of Parent/Guardian, custodian
_____ Signature of parent, guardian, custodian Date: _____