

HOPE REINS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Volunteers

Those adults interested in giving their time at the ranch (either full-time or part-time) are welcome to complete and return our volunteer application. We will maintain application information based on volunteering interests, schedule, and skills. If your “profile” seems to fit a need we have, we will contact you and invite you to schedule a volunteer interview. This informal interview will give us a chance to get to know you better and go over any additional questions you may have.

Please note, all volunteers who work on site with children will be required at no charge to apply for and pass a background check.

As you complete your application, you may need to refer to the list below for clarification of suggested volunteer roles.

Junior Volunteers

If you are under 18, have experience riding or have been a part of the riding program at Hope Reins, and looking for an opportunity to get more involved, you may be eligible to volunteer. Ask your leader about it during your next session time; they will be able to determine if you are ready for this exciting opportunity, in which case they will refer you to us. If you are not currently in our program, please contact us at 423-921-4525 to schedule a visit or interview after completing an application. To ensure everyone has a chance to learn and is safe, we will be limiting the number of junior volunteers we have each day. Those youth who are able to commit to [come weekly](#) (seasonal volunteers) will be considered first for volunteering, but we hope to include as many as we can. A junior volunteer’s experience at the ranch will differ greatly from that of an adult volunteer.

It is our goal to teach ranching skills to our junior volunteers. Volunteering sessions will always include physical labor, but may also include informal classes on a number of topics including horsemanship, ranch maintenance, gardening, etc. Junior volunteers will also have less independent choice regarding activities they will take part in while at the ranch.

It will be the goal of each volunteer to graduate to the point they are able to take on a less experienced volunteer and to teach them what they know about serving at the ranch (see the “Mentoring Team” information.) Readiness for this responsibility will be determined both by our staff and each volunteer.

Junior Volunteers must have adult guardians with them onsite during all volunteering sessions. Older children may be invited to volunteer without parental presence once we have determined they are able to work independently.

Adult and Junior Volunteer Opportunities (See Detailed Descriptions for Each Attached)

- [Greeter](#)
- [Memory Maker](#)
- [Green Thumb](#)
- [Play Pal](#)
- [Power House](#)
- [Musician](#)
- [Mentor](#)
- [Herd Manager/Trainer](#)
- [Prayer Team](#)
- [Hay Team](#)
- [Intern](#)
- [Builder](#)
- [Energy Booster](#)
- [Artisan](#)
- [Fund Raiser](#)

Volunteer Groups

Occasionally we have projects that call for the help of a group of strong and motivated people. Often times it will only take a group a few hours to accomplish something that might take us weeks. We will know about some of these projects months in advance and some of them will come up within a few days notice. However, the ranch is now coming to a place where many of these projects have been completed and now our greatest need is simply for more space. Please take some time to consider holding a fund raising event with your group to assist the ranch in purchasing a new location.

If volunteering onsite is still the best option for your organization, please print out, complete, and return our Group Volunteer Application. The administration of group volunteering is very similar to individual adult volunteering. We accept applications completed by the group organizer, keeping them on file based on group interest, schedule, and skills. When we have a project that seems appropriate we will contact the group leader and invite them to schedule a volunteer time with us (if the project has a flexible schedule.)

As you complete your application, you may need to refer to the list below for clarification of suggested volunteer roles. Please click on each link for more detail.

Local Volunteer Group Opportunities

- Hay Team
- Fund Raiser
- Prayer Team
- Artisan
- Green Thumb
- Builder
- We are also open to your ideas

DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Greeter

Warmly welcomes everyone who walks up our driveway. Will offer direction to newcomers, ensure release forms have been completed, and spend time talking with visitors and participants.

Energy Booster

We are blessed by those who make sure everyone is well fed and watered. This volunteer may simply take water to parched-looking ranch hands or may be a cook who likes to bring tasty treats to feed the kids, volunteers, staff and horses.

Power House our "Work-Horse"

For those who like to get out and get moving, the ranch is always full of muscle-building jobs. Work may include bucking hay, building/fixing fences, repairing buildings, pruning trees, moving rocks, spreading wood shavings, etc.

Artisan - Makes Things Beautiful

This person uses his/her skills to dream up, construct, and/or maintain ranch art.

Playpal - encourages kids to be kids

There is never a shortage of kids on the ranch, and this playful volunteer will serve by simply playing with them! Catching lizards, playing on the swings, games on the lawn or even coming up with his/her own ideas of crazy games for our young friends. Creativity is encouraged!

Prayer Team

If there is one thing we have learned over the years, it is that prayer makes things happen. Many people have given hours of their time in prayer for this place and we attribute much of the success of the ranch to those prayers. We are now coming to a time of great change and need more help than ever. Membership to the prayer team will

automatically add the member to a prayer point email/ mailing list that will be sent monthly or more frequently if pressing issues come about. If you are interested, please [contact us](#) via email and let us know if you'd like to be added to the list.

Fund Raiser

This volunteer may be mostly active away from the ranch. Fundraising is a vital part of the ranch's survival as we do not charge a fee to any child or family to attend. We do pursue grants to sponsor children's visits to the ranch; however, and depend greatly upon community and individual support.

Musician - Helps "set the mood" of the ranch

Uses songs with a positive message to share both a loving heart and musical skill. May use any of a wide variety of instruments to share in song or even teach lessons.

Green Thumb

Uses skills to maintain ranch plants keeping them in top shape. This job could include tree pruning, weeding, weed-wacking, mowing, flower planting, watering, deadheading, bug spraying, fruit harvesting, etc.

Memory Maker

Captures memories of ranch activities through film. This person may simply use their eye to capture still pictures for use in ranch publications or even put together a year book of pictures he/she has taken. If you love photography and/or scrapbooking, but have run out of subjects, the ranch may be a good place for some fresh inspiration.

Hay Team

Helps us get hay out of the field and into our barns. This volunteer is willing to be called on short notice to come and help us get hay out of the field. Many local farmers donate their hay to us if we will just come and get it. Our "hay team" is the only reason we can respond and supply our barns and horses with food for the season.

Professional Assistance

Often the ranch is in need of the special skills a professional brings. Below is a general list of needed professional skill sets we could easily utilize. Please contact us if you are a professional in any of these areas and would like to help the ranch out. If your profession is not listed, but you would like to offer your services anyway, let us know and we will contact you as applicable needs come up.

- Electrician
- Finish Carpenter
- General Carpentry
- Veterinarian
- Lawyer
- Catering
- CPA
- Website Manager/Creator

Builders

Takes part in limited-term construction/repair projects. Involvement is dependent on skill, but most people can be involved in some way or another.

Teacher

Teaches short (10-20 min) informal classes to children and other volunteers regarding subjects they have mastered themselves. Subjects ideas may include: gardening, power-tool safety, auto mechanic basics, equine wound binding, etc. There are many possibilities. It is our goal to teach our children skills that will help them with success in life and there are many skills that can be easily taught that empower them in this way.

Session Instructor

Though this role is reserved for those we know well and have the time to train, it is a long term goal for many of our volunteers. This volunteer would be scheduled, just as our staff are, to work with ranch children and horses in a one-to-one capacity.

“Intern”

We will work with colleges to provide internship opportunities to students based upon their level of skills and commitment.

Mentor

This volunteer opportunity is reserved for our Junior Volunteers. Those youth involved in this program will work toward becoming a “mentor” to another young volunteer. These younger volunteers will be able to follow our Junior Volunteers during their time here. Each Junior Volunteer will be expected to teach the new volunteer about the skills they have learned, and work together to apply them to ranch tasks. The length of these “mentoring” experiences will be dependent upon what the individual Junior Volunteer is ready for.

Your Ideas

We have included many ways to volunteer here. However, if there is a specific way you would like to assist the ranch, we would love to hear your ideas. Potentially, we can work together to create a role that fits you and the needs of the ranch well.