

Junior Volunteer Program Policy

Robinson's Equine Therapy

Purpose

To create a safe, structured program that allows youth under 18 to support Robinson's Equine in meaningful, age-appropriate ways while protecting the safety of our riders and maintaining program quality.

Eligibility & Role Definitions

- **Ages 13-15:** Grooming/tacking with supervision, barn chores, class prep. No sidewalking. Must be supervised by staff or adult.
- **Ages 16-17:** Eligible for sidewalking (during classes) and/or horse handling (NOT during classes) with staff approval. May volunteer independently with parental consent.

Sidewalking Policy

- Volunteers under 16 are not permitted to sidewalk under any circumstances.
- Ages 16-17 may sidewalk only with:
 - Maturity and responsibility
 - Appropriate height and physical ability
 - Completion of orientation and training
 - Signed parental consent and liability waiver
- Junior volunteers may NEVER sidewalk alone. An adult (18+) sidewalker must be assigned to the same rider. Youth sidewalkers will only be scheduled if safe and adequate adult coverage is present.

Requirements for All Junior Volunteers

- Submit a **Junior Volunteer Application**
- Submit a **Liability Acknowledgement Form signed by a parent/guardian**
- Attend volunteer orientation
- Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants
- Follow safety rules and staff direction
- Sign in/out and stay in designated areas

Additional Opportunities

- Service hours for schools or clubs
- Group volunteer days (Scouts, homeschool groups)

Junior Volunteer Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age: _____

School Name (if applicable): _____

Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/ Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Emergency Contact (if different from parent/guardian)

Name: _____

Relationship to Volunteer: _____

Phone Number: _____

Volunteer Interests (check all that apply)

- Barn chores
- Class prep and setup
- Sidewalking (ages 16-17 only, approval required)
- Grooming/tacking
- Cleaning/organizing
- Other (please describe): _____

Medical Information

Allergies or health concerns we should be aware of:

Medications (if any): _____

Parental Consent & Acknowledgment

I, _____, the parent/guardian of the above-named minor, give permission for them to volunteer at Robinson's Equine Therapy and Riding. I understand that:

- My child will be assigned only to roles appropriate to their age and ability.
- Volunteers under 16 may not sidewalk.
- Volunteers ages 16-17 may only sidewalk with approval and will not be scheduled without an adult sidewalker present.
- My child must attend orientation and follow all safety rules.

I understand that a **separate Junior Volunteer Consent & Liability Form must be signed before volunteering.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Junior Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Junior Volunteer Consent & Liability Acknowledgement

Junior Volunteer Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Volunteer Age: _____

Volunteer Category (check one):

- Ages 13–15** – Barn help only (grooming, tacking with supervision, chores, class prep).
No sidewalking permitted.
- Ages 16–17** – May be eligible for sidewalking during classes or horse handling outside of
classes with staff approval.
-

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Emergency Contact (if different): _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Indiana Equine Activity Liability Law

Indiana Code Section 34-31-5-1 states:

An equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.

Robinson's Equine Therapy & Riding, Inc. is considered an **equine activity sponsor and equine professional** under Indiana law.

Acknowledgement of Risk

I understand that volunteering at Robinson's Equine Therapy & Riding involves working around horses and farm environments.

Horses are powerful and unpredictable animals and may:

- startle or spook suddenly
- kick or bite
- move unexpectedly
- react to sounds, people, or other animals

Farm environments may also include hazards such as uneven ground, fencing, equipment, vehicles, or other animals.

Assumption of Risk

I understand the risks involved in volunteering around horses and agree that my child voluntarily participates in the junior volunteer program.

Junior Volunteer Rules

I understand that my child must follow Robinson's Equine Therapy volunteer policies, including:

- Attending orientation and training
- Wearing closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing
- Remaining in designated areas
- Following all safety instructions from staff

Failure to follow safety rules may result in removal from volunteer activities.

Release of Liability

I agree to release and hold harmless Robinson's Equine Therapy & Riding, Inc., its officers, board members, employees, volunteers, and representatives from any claims, injuries, damages, or losses that may occur while my child is volunteering.

Photo & Media Release (Optional)

Robinson's Equine Therapy & Riding occasionally photographs or records program activities for educational or promotional purposes.

- I give permission for my child to be photographed or recorded.
- I do NOT give permission for my child to be photographed or recorded.

Junior Volunteer Consent & Liability Acknowledgement

Parent / Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Junior Volunteer Signature

I agree to follow the rules and safety instructions while volunteering at Robinson's Equine Therapy & Riding.

Junior Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____