



WELCOME TO RYERSS FARM FOR AGED EQUINES

ADULT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION & INFO PACKET (AGES 18+)

Thank you for your interest in joining the volunteer team at Ryersss Farm! Founded in 1888, Ryersss Farm relies on dedicated volunteers to support our historic mission of providing a peaceful, loving home for retired, rescued, and aged equines.

A Quick Overview of Our Program:

- **Who Can Join:** This program is open to enthusiastic adults **aged 18 and older**.
- **Role Pipeline & Placement:** To ensure a smooth operational flow and help all volunteers learn our public-facing mission, **all incoming adult volunteers begin their service in our Gift Shop or helping with Special Events.**
- **Barn Seniority Track:** Hands-on roles in our barns and pastures are limited. Openings for horse care and stable support are offered strictly on a seniority basis to active volunteers as spots open up, followed by specialized hands-on training.

PART 1: ADULT VOLUNTEER PROFILE

About You:

- Full Name: _____
- Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ [] I certify that I am at least 18 years of age.
- Street Address: _____
- City, State, Zip: _____
- Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Interests & Availability:

- Primary Focus (Check all that apply): ☐ Gift Shop Support ☐ Special Events & Fundraisers
- ☐ Please also add my name to the Seniority Waitlist for future Barn Care openings.
- Preferred Times:

Monday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Tuesday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Wednesday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Thursday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Friday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Saturday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Sunday: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Special Skills & Prior Experience: Please briefly share any retail, customer service, event, administrative, or horse care experience: _____

PART 2: EMERGENCY CONTACT & BACKGROUND CHECK**Emergency Contact Details:**

- Full Name: _____
- Relationship to Volunteer: _____
- Cell Phone: _____ Alternative Phone: _____

Mandatory Background Check:

- ☐ I have completed the required online Background.



PART 3: SAFETY & PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Please review and initial each item below:

Volunteer Initials

1. _____ **Role Placement & Seniority:** I understand that all incoming volunteers begin in the Gift Shop and Event support, and that barn/horse care openings are offered strictly on a seniority basis as spots become available.
2. _____ **Attendance & Scheduling:** I will do my best to arrive on time for scheduled shifts. If I am sick or have a conflict, I will notify management as early as possible so the team can adjust.
3. _____ **Guests & Personal Pets:** I understand that volunteers may not bring unscheduled guests, children, or personal pets with them while performing volunteer duties.
4. _____ **Machinery & Equipment:** I understand that volunteers are prohibited from operating tractors, heavy farm machinery, or ATVs unless explicitly trained, certified, and authorized by management.
5. _____ **Safety Protocols:** I agree to carry a cell phone during farm shifts, keep all gates closed as found, use the buddy system for barn/field tasks, and follow all safety instructions from management.
6. _____ **Privacy & Records:** I agree to respect the confidentiality of our supporters, donors, and administrative files, and understand that volunteers are not permitted to access horse ownership records.
7. _____ **Sharing on Social Media:** You are always welcome to share photos of our resident horses on your personal social media accounts! We just ask that your posts remain positive and reflect kindly on the sanctuary, our care standards, and the team.
8. _____ **Photo & Media Release:** I give Ryerss Farm permission to use photos or videos taken of me during volunteer activities to promote the farm's non-profit mission on our website, social media, or print materials.



VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT & LIABILITY WAIVER

1. Accuracy & Volunteer Status: I affirm that all statements on this application are true and complete. I understand that false statements or omissions may result in immediate dismissal. I acknowledge that my service is provided strictly as a volunteer and does not constitute an employment relationship.

2. Equine Activity Risk & Liability Release: I understand that Ryerss Farm is a working equine sanctuary and that being on farm property around large animals involves inherent risks. In consideration for the opportunity to volunteer, I agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, its Board of Managers, officers, employees, property owners, and agents from any liability, loss, or damage to myself or my property arising from my volunteer participation.

3. Third-Party & Medical Release: I agree to hold Ryerss Farm harmless from any claim brought by third parties, guests, or family members accompanying me on the premises. In the event of an emergency or injury during my shift, I authorize Ryerss Farm staff to secure necessary emergency medical treatment.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to all terms, guidelines, and liability waivers outlined in this packet.

_____ Volunteer Signature

_____ Printed Name

_____ Date