



Tweeddale Group Riding for the Disabled Association

Student Volunteer role description

Aims

The student volunteer assists in the smooth and safe running of the Tweeddale RDA Group by helping the Pony Team with pony care duties and by helping during an RDA session by leading a pony, side walking with a rider or assisting the instructor during a session.

Tasks and responsibilities may include any of the following

- Help the Pony Team catch the ponies, bring them in, groom and tack them up in preparation for an RDA session.
- Undertake other tasks that are necessary for the ponies' well being if requested.
- Meet and greet RDA riders prior to an RDA session.
- Lead a pony with an RDA rider during a session, being responsible for the control and safety of pony and rider.
- Side walk beside an RDA rider to give them assistance and confidence.
- Be part of the mounting team at the start or end of the ride.
- Assist the instructor during the ride by putting out equipment, tidying equipment away, picking up manure and being an extra pair of hands during some of the activities.

Additional Responsibilities

- Understand the work of the RDA and be aware of the standards set for Groups by RDA National Office.
- Understand the importance of the RDA Health & Safety procedures.
- Understand the importance of confidentiality.

Skills

- Experience of handling ponies is essential for leaders, but not necessary for side walkers and arena volunteers.
- A certain degree of physical fitness is needed.
- The volunteer works as part of a team.
- The volunteer should be reliable and arrive to help on the dates and times agreed.

Training

- The volunteer will be trained in all the tasks they are required to carry out to ensure they have the skills and confidence to fulfil their role.
- No volunteer will be expected to carry out their duties unsupervised until they are confident and skilled in these duties.
- The volunteer will be supported by an instructor or a member of the Pony Team, and their skills and contribution to the group reviewed on a regular basis.

Additional information

- Volunteers are covered by the Tweeddale Group's public liability and personal accident insurance while working with the Group.
- Volunteers have to be 14 years or over. There is no upper age limit.
- Volunteers aged 18 or over or who have left school are required to complete a CRB check as they are working with vulnerable adults and children.
- Skills gained while volunteering enhance a CV and can improve employment prospects.
- Volunteering hours count towards Saltire Awards for young volunteers up to 25 years old.