

Mission Statement for Rainbow Acres

Rainbow Acres, a residential Christian community with heart, empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

Job Title: Riding Instructor & Animal Care Technician

Department: Programs

Reports to: Programs Manager

Status: Full-time, non-exempt

Prepared Date: December 2024

Summary: The Riding Instructor & Animal Care Technician teaches horsemanship and safety skills to residents of all ages. He/she teaches basic, intermediate, and advanced riding skills designed to provide a therapeutic experience through classroom instruction and riding lessons. The incumbent works with the horse and rider to help them bond as a pair. He/she is responsible for sharing techniques and teaching riders how to communicate with their horse. In addition, the Riding Instructor & Animal Care Technician provides care for the well-being of all of the animals on the Ranch, including feeding, grooming, exercising, and assisting during veterinary and farrier appointments as needed. He/she works with and instructs residents in the care of animals while promoting a culture of safety, kind handling of animals, and teamwork.

Minimum qualifications: Evidence of strong ethical standards and moral character is essential along with sensitivity to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. The ideal candidate will demonstrate maturity, empathy and patience. A minimum of 3-5 years of experience in the following areas is required: horse handling, horse/animal management, riding fundamentals, experience feeding, raising and showing livestock, facility care, and equipment maintenance. Excellent horsemanship and riding skills required. Proficient in equine first aid. Certification as a therapeutic riding instructor (PATH, CHA, etc.) is preferred, or willingness to obtain certification. High school diploma or equivalent. College preferred. Ability to foster and build relationships in the community related to Rainbow Acres' program, resulting in opportunities for refinement and continuous growth of our program. Demonstrated ability to be flexible, adaptive, and creative in the development and implementation of strategies to ensure continuous quality improvement.

This is a safety-sensitive position: candidates must be able to qualify for a level one-fingerprint clearance card, pass a background check, pass a drug screen, complete a pre-employment physical, reference check, and comply with vaccination requirements

Professional Responsibilities

1. As a Riding Instructor you will be responsible for:
 - Promoting a culture of safety, kind handling of horses, teamwork
 - Riding and training horses as needed
 - The care and well-being of the horses, including feeding, grooming, exercising and assisting during veterinary and farrier appointments as needed

- Assessing the riding ability of the residents and implementing appropriate program/ activities designed to build their skill set
 - Scheduling riding lessons, implementing a process to evaluate the resident's skill set prior to advancing as a rider
 - Instructing residents in equine safety, horsemanship, and riding
 - Teaching beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders, giving constructive feedback
 - Reporting any accidents or injuries that occur to the Programs Manager
 - Ensuring tack is kept clean and the tack room and barn is clean and orderly
 - Planning and organizing barn parties and other events
2. As the Animal Care Technician, you will be responsible for ensuring the well-being and overall care of a variety of animals on the Ranch including donkeys and other small animals
 - Develops and maintains safety protocols and training procedures specific to the animal science program
 - Teaches and supervises residents in the feeding, grooming, cleaning, and overall care of Ranch animals
 - Implements an animal science program that includes hands on experiences for residents resulting in a therapeutic experience as well as instruction on animal care
 - Responsibility for maintaining a safe, professional, clean, and healthy environment for the animals and residents; reports maintenance concerns
 - Oversees the daily feeding, watering, and care of Ranch animals including the scheduling of necessary farrier and vet visits
 - Prepares specialized diets as needed; coordinates with the area veterinarian in the delivery of medications and collecting of samples for analysis
 - Monitors, exercises, grooms, and trains a variety of domestic animals
 - Prepares and maintains accurate and up-to-date animal records assuring compliance with regulatory agencies and program requirements
 - Coordinates the scheduling of residents and/or volunteers to assist in ensuring continuous animal care throughout the week
 - Primary responsibility for evaluating animal/livestock additions (while working within budget guidelines) as well as developing and implementing exit strategies for animals
 3. Upholds the personnel policies, mission, and vision of Rainbow Acres to facilitate a quality Christian community on Rainbow Acres for the benefit of the residents
 4. Other duties as assigned

Physical Demands The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; have great dexterity of hands and arms; stoop; kneel; twist; reach; grip; handle; lift/carry up to 50 pounds; and push/pull up to 50 pounds up to 2/3 of the work day; and talk; or hear. The employee is occasionally required to sit.

Work Environment The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those employees encounter while performing the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts. The employee is occasionally exposed to both hot and dry and/or wet and/or humid conditions; fumes or airborne particles; toxic or caustic chemicals; outside weather conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate to occasionally loud