

About Rainbow Center Therapeutic Riding Center

Rainbow Center is a place where individuals with special challenges come together, and where victories -- some dramatic, some modest, but all significant -- are joyously celebrated.

Established in 1985, Rainbow Center is a non-profit organization which provides therapeutic equestrian activities to individuals with physical and mental challenges. Rainbow Center is a regional therapeutic riding facility that serves students from Prince William, Fauquier, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Our clients are primarily children who benefit from their involvement by developing self-esteem and self-confidence while receiving therapy from an equestrian activity to accommodate their specific condition.

Under the guidance of registered therapists and certified riding instructors, therapeutic riding helps individuals experience physical and emotional rewards.

The Rainbow Center operates under the guidelines of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) #1498. Our instructors are NARHA certified.



4-H Therapeutic Riding

Rainbow Center
5605 Antioch Road
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(By Appointment Only)
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Rainbow Center Therapeutic Riding Program

Volunteer Opportunities



Help Us Help Others

Experience the Joy of Helping Others by Volunteering!

With the uniqueness of our program and our convenient location in Haymarket, Rainbow Center is a very popular site chosen by individuals or groups seeking volunteer opportunities.

We welcome all to come and enjoy the refreshing experiences of helping others, while learning. Located in Western Prince William County, we are right on the border of Fauquier, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties.

Volunteers are one of the program's most valuable resources! While most volunteers look forward to assisting in riding classes, others come forward to help in the operation of our program. Our volunteers alone help save the program funds by not having to hire additional staff.

Roles of Class Volunteer

The priority role of the volunteer is to ensure the safety and security of our riding students, while on or around the horses. This is where we need you!

Though having prior experience with horses can help, it is not a requirement. However, those with prior experience are usually selected by the class instructor to help with getting horses out of the paddocks, saddling and being the "horse leader" of the class. The "horse leader" is basically in control of the horse during the lesson.

Side Walkers

By "side walking" you can prevent the rider from falling off the horse. Those acting as side walkers may either simply walk at a close distance to the side of the rider, or in some cases may need to make physical contact with the rider to assist with their balance. The side walker gives the rider a sense of security while in the saddle, thus helping to build the rider's confidence.

Operational Volunteers

Some examples of operational help are feeding the horses on weekends, helping with handling hay, facility maintenance, and even clerical office help (mass mailings, events, etc.)

In addition to these roles, we are always looking for enthusiastic people to help with fundraising. As with any non-profit, fundraising is a very big part of keeping our program going.

We are always seeking help from skilled individuals. If you are interested in offering your skills, please let us know as we can use your help!



Volunteer Requirements

- ✓ We accept volunteers at a minimum age of 14 years of age.
- ✓ No horse experience is required.
- ✓ All volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation at our center.
- ✓ All volunteers must fill out a Rainbow Center Volunteer Application.

For more information or to download our application form, check our website at www.rainbowriding.org.

Volunteer Rewards

Aside from the rewarding experience you'll get from helping our special students, as a token of our sincere appreciation of your time, we offer Volunteer of the Year Awards in many categories at our End of Year Party.



Rainbow student David, with a Horse Leader, Side Walker and Instructor.