



Hope on Horseback Horse Leader Certification Process

Leader: a person trained in handling horses during class.

Leader-in-Training: a person who has been a side-walker for two 5-week sessions, has participated in 4 leader training workshops and is certified able to “practice” leading BEFORE and AFTER class and occasionally during class per instructor.

Step One: Become a Leader-in-Training (LIT)

1. Complete twenty documented 40-minute classes of side-walking.
See back page for record keeping and documentation.
2. Complete 4 documented Leader Training (LT) workshops.
See back page for documentation.

Step Two: Leader-in-Training Experience

1. Meet the above requirements.
2. Participate in at least one 5-week session as a leader-in-training. Must lead before, after or in class to practice skills and to gain experience leading, getting to know the individual horses and working with the herd.
3. It is the responsibility of the leader candidate to have the instructor sign documentation form each time.

This process may take longer for some people depending on their equine skills.

Step Three: Achieve Leader Certification

1. Meet the above requirements.
2. Attend a Certification Workshop
3. Pass 15 competency requirements.
4. MANDATORY participation in 2 Leader refresher Trainings yearly

Please print:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Texting permitted? Yes ___ No ___

Volunteer Start Date: _____ LIT Start Date _____

Signature: _____

Leader Competency List

Leader Candidates will continue to gain experience as a Leader-in-training until all categories have been completed and signed off by an instructor.

- Is calm and confident around horses.
- Can groom and tack efficiently.
- Accepts constructive criticism well and applies to tasks.
- Ask questions to clarify information.
- Leads horse from between the ears and shoulder.
- Uses good body language to communicate with the horse.
- Observes horse's ears and eyes during class** to "read" horse's energy.
- Is able to adjust personal energy to affect horses' energy.
- During "whoa" and mounting, leader stands slightly to the side of and facing the horse.
- Knows how to increase and decrease horse's energy using body language, aids and words.
- Understands gaits: walk, trot, and whoa.
- Knows how to ask horse to transition between whoa, walk, trot, walk and whoa, using body language, verbally and with aids.
- Can back a horse up at least 5 steps using body language, light pressure and words.
- Pays attention to instructor before, during and after class.
- Follows directions.
- Is professional with focus on horse/surroundings at all times to keep horse controlled and safe for rider and side-walkers.
- Does not chat with rider** during ACTIVE class (permitted prior/after)
- Communicates with side-walkers during class for safety. Example: loosen reins stop bouncing, etc.
- Is aware of the horse, horse's body and behaviors.
- Keeps at **LEAST one large horse distance** between their horse and other horses at all times.
- Communicates with side-walkers regarding possible rider issues.
- ALLOWS RIDER TO CONTROL** the horse to the BEST of their ABILITY.
- Keeps horse safe and in control at all times (in the arena, in their stalls, at the mounting block, etc).

Leader Training Competency Workshops will be held monthly.

I understand that it is MY responsibility to practice all competency skills and ask questions if not clear on a topic. Additionally, I understand that it is also my responsibility to sign up for the Mandatory Leader Training Workshops.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

It will be **MANDATORY** for ALL current certified leaders to **participate in 2 Leader Training Workshops YEARLY** to retain Leader status.
Training LOG must be filled out and verified by an instructor.

