



Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

Horse Rescue & Adoption



Volunteer Handbook

John and Cheryl Webb, Executive Directors and Founders

Blue Rose Ranch, Inc.

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Blue Rose Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation

Volunteer Handbook



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Horse Rescue & Adoption

Volunteer and Staff Handbook

Orientation

Blue Rose Ranch is a horse rescue. We operate on hundreds of acres, located on two ranches. Every horse at the Blue Rose Ranch Horse Rescue is here because it was unwanted, for various reasons, where it was before. Regardless of their age, health, soundness, and training, each horse is a treasure at Blue Rose Ranch. The statue located at the entrance to Blue Rose Ranch, *Preceptor*, welcomes horses to their new home and symbolizes the peace and love they will have under our watch.

Priorities at Blue Rose Ranch

- A. Rescue and Care of Horses
- B. Everything else:
 - Volunteers
 - Youth Horse Camp and Volunteer Opportunities
 - Visitors
 - Capital Campaigns
 - Repairs, Maintenance, etc.

GUMPS - *The Safety Acronym at Blue Rose Ranch*

Be on your **Guard**
Horses are **Unpredictable**
Horses are **Massive**
Horses are **Prey Animals**
We must become increasingly more **Savvy**

What we look for in Volunteers

Volunteers are important to fulfilling our mission. The horses need the love and care volunteers provide to become the best horse they can be. The horses at Blue Rose Ranch love to be with people. This is a testament to the work of our volunteers. As a volunteer, you will be rewarded as you work with these amazing animals who win your heart – and you will win their hearts. Thank you for your service to the cause!

Volunteer Opportunities

You do not need experience to volunteer at Blue Rose Ranch. We will provide training and you will learn from our staff and vetted volunteers.

Like all horse facilities, we have our way of doing things. We have many years of experience and a reputation as one of the finest horse programs in the Country. You will learn how we handle horses and you will be expected to work our system while at Blue Rose Ranch.

Blue Rose Ranch has specific days and hours where supervision is available and volunteers are welcome at those times. These times change with school schedules and seasons. You need to contact the appropriate staff member (Horse Division Foreman, Horse Walkers, Youth Counselors, Youth Volunteers) to let us know each time you can come and volunteer.

Trustworthiness: Become a Vetted Volunteer

- A. Follow Rules
- B. Focus on Safety: for Horses, Volunteers, Guests
- C. Be an example to younger, impressionable volunteers
- D. “Ride for the Brand”: Speak well of BRR. Give us an opportunity to handle situations or even problems in a way that reflects favorably on Blue Rose Ranch.

Reliability: Become a Vetted Volunteer

- A. Make Blue Rose Ranch a priority.
- B. Show up when you say you will, Be on Time, Follow through.
- C. Make yourself valuable: look to see what needs done and do it.

Values at Blue Rose Ranch

Honor the Land

- A. Pick up Trash, Wire, Anything that does not naturally belong on the land
- B. Protect the Grass: Drive on the Roads, Park in designated areas.
- C. Share this vision with ranch guests.

Honor the Horses

- A. Be Savvy – learn about horse behavior & respond with leadership and patience
- B. Natural Horsemanship – focus on communicating in horse speak

Riding Horses at Blue Rose Ranch

Blue Rose Ranch does not have a riding program. We do have volunteer opportunities for both youth and volunteers.

Those who volunteer and who do want to ride are welcome. Anyone who rides must also complete other volunteer work in exchange for riding privileges. There are set times for youth volunteers to ride where we have supervision and staff volunteers to assist.

Important for all volunteers, visitors and staff. We are not a Dude Ranch. A Dude Ranch has carefully selected horses who are trained, usually calm, and designated safe for tourists to ride. Tourists who ride at a Dude Ranch are usually just passengers and do not really direct the horse. While many horses at Blue Rose Ranch can be ridden by beginners, our volunteers should not expect horses to exhibit perfect behavior for riders who do not have experience and who do not know how to communicate with a horse.

All volunteers and staff will be designated a level of experience and ability and should only ride horses within that level. Do not ride horses above that level without the permission of the Blue Rose Ranch Directors.

We require that **all riders under the age of 18 wear helmets**. Adults are also encouraged to ride in a helmet. We have helmets available for use in the Clubhouse. Helmets are not expensive and we encourage (recommend) volunteers to purchase their own.

BLUE ROSE RANCH

WEIGHT and CONDITIONING POLICY FOR RIDING HORSES

Two thirds of Americans are overweight or obese. This fact is impacting the horse world. Many horses are injured or become difficult to ride or handle because of overweight riders.

Equestrian sports require that a person be physically fit, reasonably athletic and a normal weight. This is a difficult and embarrassing issue for all of us

FACT: A horse can safely carry 10% up to a maximum of 15% of its weight, assuming the horse is in good shape. That means:

**A large, 1,200 lb. horse can safely carry a person who weighs 120 lbs.
...up to a maximum weight of 180 lbs.**

PHYSICALITY: For a person to safely ride a horse they must be able to lift their foot up to the height of the stirrup and pull themselves quickly and easily up and over the saddle without assistance. The exception is small children that are not yet tall enough to reach the stirrup or saddle horn.

If a person cannot easily mount their horse without assistance, they in all likelihood, do not have enough strength or athleticism to protect themselves if the horse should move suddenly or stumble, etc. while being ridden. **A person that is not in reasonably good athletic condition is many times more likely to experience serious injury in the event of a mishap.** No matter how much care is taken to make a riding experience safe, horses are big, strong, and capable of unpredictable responses.

At Blue Rose Ranch we do not have any horse that can accommodate a person that weighs over 200 lbs.

If you are overweight or not in good physical condition:

We ask that you carefully consider for yourself if riding horses is a good choice. We never want to be in a position where we have to tell a person they cannot ride at Blue Rose Ranch.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are many opportunities for people to get involved and interact with horses, at Blue Rose Ranch, that do not require riding.

General Rules on Blue Rose Ranch Property

The rules are in place for the safety of the horses and people at Blue Rose Ranch. We expect every volunteer, visitor, and staff member to follow them. We want everyone to have a fun and safe experience.

1. **Dress Code:** Wear long jeans or slacks for protection. Wear closed toe shoes – horses can step on toes. For riding, a cowboy boot or heeled shoe adds safety. Do not wear long jewelry as it can get caught and cause injury to you or your horse. Do not wear tops that flap behind you as you ride, as these can spook a horse. Young ladies need to wear tops that provide appropriate coverage. Remember that you are representing Blue Rose Ranch.
2. **NO SMOKING allowed** at any place on Blue Rose Ranch property. Horse facilities and grass provide abundant fuel for fires. Our insurance will not cover fire set by someone smoking on the ranch properties.
3. **NO RUNNING** around the horses. Horses have a strong “flight” instinct and running can cause unpredictable behavior. Remember horses can be easily frightened by new experiences.
4. **Take care of the GATES** and make sure they are positioned correctly so that the hinges are not stressed. There is **NO CLIMBING** on any of the horse corral panels, any of the white horse fence, or gates. These can be compromised by undue weight. New gates are expensive, white fence is expensive, corral panels are expensive. Rather than repairs, we would rather spend that money on hay.
5. **NO DOGS ALLOWED** in horse operation areas. Dogs can spook horses with running and also with barking even if they are locked in a car. Horses can also injure dogs they perceive as a threat.
6. Put **everything in its appropriate place** when you are finished. This includes individual horse halters, saddles, brushes, feed pans, etc. Nothing should ever be left lying around.
7. **Take care of the facility, vehicles, equipment.** Treat everything as if it were your own. Report any faulty equipment or infrastructure that needs repair.
8. **Only work with horses** whose behavior/training is deemed appropriate for **your skill level.**
9. **Blue Rose Ranch has policies for horse care and handling** and expects all volunteers and staff to follow these policies even though it may be different than what they are used to or how they care for or handle their own horses. These policies are necessary for consistency for the horses, and for the safety of the horses and people.



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VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ e-mail _____

Under 18 - Parent or legal guardian: (Please list names and cell phones of parents)

Please list information regarding your experience with horses: _____

Please check all areas you would be willing to assist with:

___ Horse care: grooming, leading, stall/corral cleaning

___ Horse Training and Exercise

___ Facility maintenance: repairs/carpentry/cleaning clubhouse

___ Website: updating/horse pictures and stories

___ Fundraising: mailings/events

___ Other: please list any special talents or skills you have that you are willing to volunteer

When are you available to volunteer? _____

I, the undersigned, wish to volunteer at Blue Rose Ranch, Inc. I know of no reason why I should not participate in equine activities. I will abide by the safety rules established by the Blue Rose Ranch Executive Directors and will treat both the horses and those working at Blue Rose Ranch with respect and kindness.

Signature of Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____



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LIABILITY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING!

SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY.

REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTEER/VISITOR AND AGREEMENT PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATION

In consideration of my participation as a volunteer or visitor and the signing of this agreement, I, the following listed individual and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor, do hereby voluntarily request and agree to participate in activities and events at Blue Rose Ranch. This agreement shall be legally binding upon the PARTICIPANT and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor and Blue Rose Ranch, estate, assigns, including children and personal representatives.

INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEER//VISITOR

Name: _____ D.O.B. _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

DEFINITIONS

The term "Blue Rose Ranch" shall herein refer to Blue Rose Ranch, Inc., Horse Rescue and Adoption, its executive directors, board of directors, instructors, volunteers and employees. The term "horseback riding" or "riding" shall herein refer to riding or otherwise handling of horses whether from the ground or mounted. The term "horse" shall herein refer to all equine species. The terms "participant" and "rider" shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms "I", "me", "my", "participant", and "rider" shall herein refer to the above volunteer and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

ACTIVITY RISK CLASSIFICATION, INHERENT RISKS AND NATURE OF THE HORSE WARNING

Horseback riding is classified as a RUGGED ADVENTURE RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITY. There are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks always present in such activity despite all safety precautions. NO HORSE IS A COMPLETELY SAFE HORSE. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include but are not limited to: stopping short, changing directions or speed at will, shifting its weight side to side, bucking, rearing, biting, kicking, or running from perceived danger.

VOLUNTEER/RIDING PARTICIPANT/VISITOR ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

PARTICIPANT AGREES that he/she has in some way satisfied himself that the condition of the premises and the facilities will provide an adequate and reasonable level of safety for the Participant. **Blue Rose Ranch** is not responsible for any property damage, injury or loss of life incurred by or as a result of any horse(s) on this premises to the Participant. **PARTICIPANT IS AWARE OF THE RISKS AND DANGERS OF THIS ACTIVITY AND AGREES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY AND ALL INCIDENTS OCCURRING DURING THIS ACTIVITY.**

CONDITIONS OF NATURE

Blue Rose Ranch is not responsible for total or partial acts, occurrences, or elements of nature that can scare a horse, cause it to fall or react in some other unsafe way. SOME EXAMPLES ARE: thunder, lightning, rain and wind. Wild and domestic animals, insects, reptiles which may walk, run, fly near, bite or sting a horse or person, and irregular footing on indoor and out of door groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change in condition according to weather, temperature, and changes in landscape.

ACCIDENTAL/MEDICAL INSURANCE

Should emergency medical treatment be required, I and/or my own medical insurance company shall pay all such incurred expenses.

LIABILITY RELEASE

In consideration of Blue Rose Ranch allowing my participation in this activity, under the terms set forth herein, I, the Participant and the parent or guardian thereof if a minor, do agree to hold harmless and release Blue Rose Ranch, its executive directors, board of directors, instructors, agents, volunteers, employees, officers, members, affiliated organizations and insurers from legal liability due to Blue Rose Ranch’s ordinary negligence. I do further agree that except in the event of Blue Rose Ranch’s gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions, causes of action and/or litigation against Blue Rose Ranch and its associates as stated above in this clause, for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by me and/or my minor child or legal ward in relation to the premises and operations of Blue Rose Ranch. This includes while riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody, and control of Blue Rose Ranch or on the property of Blue Rose Ranch for any reasons.

WARNING

Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

POLICY ON SAFETY HELMETS

The use of safety helmets is required by for all riders under the age of 18. Adults are strongly encouraged to ride in a helmet. There are helmets available for use in the Clubhouse.

STATEMENT OF AWARENESS

I/We, the undersigned, have read and do understand the foregoing agreement, warnings, assumption of risk and release agreement.

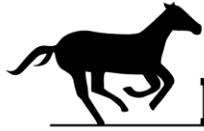
Volunteers under the age of 18 must have Parent/Guardian Signature

Volunteer/Visitor (Print Name): _____

Volunteer/Visitor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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NOTES