

SERRA

Sonoma Equine Rescue, Rehab & Adoption

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with SERRA! Our volunteers are an essential part of our ability to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome horses. We are looking for dependable, compassionate people who love animals and want to give back by helping horses in need.

Previous horse experience is helpful but not required. The most important qualities we look for are a willingness to learn, follow instructions and safety procedures, and the ability to make a regular commitment to a scheduled volunteer shift.

1. Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Are you at least 18 years old? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Volunteers under the age of 18 may volunteer only when accompanied and directly supervised by a parent or legal guardian throughout their volunteer shift.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone: _____

2. Why Would You Like to Volunteer with SERRA?

What motivates you to seek a volunteer position at SERRA, and what do you hope to contribute through your volunteer work?

3. Areas of Interest

Please check the areas in which you are interested in volunteering:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Horse care and barn chores | ☐ Social media, photography, or communications |
| ☐ Learning to handle and hand-walk horses | ☐ Events and volunteer activities |
| ☐ Feeding and preparing food | ☐ Gardening and landscaping |
| ☐ Grooming horses | ☐ Community outreach |
| ☐ Checking, cleaning, and filling water buckets and troughs | ☐ Fundraising and donor outreach |
| ☐ Cleaning and organizing the barn and supplies | ☐ Administrative or office work |
| ☐ Carpentry, fencing, and facility maintenance | ☐ Other: _____ |

4. What to Expect as a SERRA Volunteer

SERRA volunteers are an important part of the daily care of our horses and the operation of our rescue. Volunteer work is hands-on and takes place both inside and outside, in a variety of weather conditions. Volunteers work as part of a team and are trained in the tasks they are asked to perform.

Morning Shift: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

- Turning horses out to their designated turnout areas
- Checking water buckets in the barn and water troughs in the turnouts to ensure they are full and clean
- Cleaning and refilling water containers as needed
- Preparing lunches and supplements
- Washing buckets
- Grooming horses
- Other tasks needed to support the care of the horses and the operation of the rescue

Afternoon Shift: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

- Preparing the horses' 3:00 p.m. snack
- Preparing dinners
- Feed Lunch
- Preparing breakfast for the following morning
- Bringing horses in from turnout
- Feeding supplements
- Checking, cleaning, and refilling water containers
- Washing buckets
- Grooming horses
- Feeding Snack (3:00pmish)
- Feed dinner (5:00pm-ish)
- Other tasks needed to support the care of the horses and the operation of the rescue

Horse Handling: Some volunteers may assist with turning horses out in the morning and bringing horses in during the afternoon. These tasks involve hand-walking horses and are performed only by volunteers who are comfortable doing so and have received appropriate instruction and training. Volunteers are never required to handle horses beyond their comfort level or experience.

5. Horse and Animal Experience

Have you worked with horses before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe your experience, including approximately how long you have worked with horses and the types of activities in which you have participated:

Have you worked with other animals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

Previous horse experience is not required to volunteer at SERRA. All volunteers receive instruction and training appropriate to the tasks they are asked to perform.

6. Skills and Experience

Please describe any special skills, professional experience, hobbies, or talents that you believe could be helpful to SERRA.

Examples may include gardening, carpentry, fencing, construction, equipment maintenance, photography, social media, fundraising, event planning, administrative work, grant writing, public relations, or other skills.

7. Previous Volunteer Experience

Have you volunteered with another organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what did you enjoy most about that experience?

Was there anything about the experience that was not a good fit for you?

8. Availability and Commitment

SERRA relies on a dependable team of volunteers to help care for our horses. To provide consistency for the horses and the volunteer team, we ask volunteers to commit to a regularly scheduled shift.

Please select the schedule that best reflects the commitment you are realistically able to make.

Which days are you generally available?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Monday | ☐ Tuesday | ☐ Wednesday |
| ☐ Thursday | ☐ Friday | ☐ Saturday |
| ☐ Sunday | | |

Which shift would you prefer?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Morning: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | ☐ Afternoon: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. |
| ☐ Either shift | |

How frequently would you like to volunteer?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Weekly | ☐ Every other week |
| ☐ Other: _____ | |

Is there a particular day and/or shift you would prefer?

If you are unable to attend a scheduled shift, we ask that you provide as much advance notice as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

9. Physical Requirements and Considerations

Volunteer work at SERRA may include standing, walking, bending, lifting and carrying supplies, pushing wheelbarrows, working outdoors, and performing other physical tasks associated with caring for horses and maintaining the facility.

Is there anything about your physical abilities or limitations that we should know in order to help us identify appropriate volunteer tasks for you?

This information is requested only to help us match volunteers with appropriate tasks and responsibilities.

10. References

Please provide the names and contact information for two people who are not relatives and who can speak to your reliability, character, work ethic, or ability to work as part of a team.

Reference 1

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reference 2

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

11. What Happens Next?

After we receive your application, we will review it and contact you to arrange a conversation or phone interview.

If you are accepted into the volunteer program, you will be required to:

- Complete SERRA's required Liability Waiver and Release
- Complete SERRA's Medical Emergency Information Form
- Attend a New Volunteer Orientation
- Complete any additional training required for the tasks you will perform

Volunteers under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present and directly supervising them throughout their volunteer shift.

12. Applicant Acknowledgment

I certify that the information I have provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that volunteering at SERRA requires dependability, a willingness to learn, and compliance with SERRA's policies, safety procedures, and instructions. I understand that SERRA may determine the volunteer assignments and activities for which I am trained and authorized.

I understand that completion of SERRA's required Liability Waiver and Release and Medical Emergency Information Form is required before I begin volunteering. I also understand that I must attend New Volunteer Orientation and any other required training.

I understand that volunteering is at the discretion of SERRA and that SERRA may end my volunteer participation at any time.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____