Selfless Service Volunteer Program
A component of Horses Helping Heroes

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer within the Horses Helping Heroes Program. Horses Helping Heroes, known as H3 for short, is Jester Park Equestrian Center’s veteran’s horsemanship program. Within H3, the Heroes Program is the foundation in which veterans currently seeking support from the V.A. participate in a 4-week course that is designed to assist them in gaining life skills. The Selfless Service Volunteer Program is a structured training program in which all interested volunteers must commit to completing before volunteering within the Heroes Program. It takes a dedicated and sensitive person to have a positive influence on the veterans who join us in the Heroes Program. However, we recognize that it takes all types of people for the program to be successful and we welcome volunteers from all walks of life to join us in the Selfless Service Volunteer Program. All Selfless Service volunteers must be 18 years and older and a current JPEC Volunteer.

The Selfless Service Volunteer Program contains three certification training levels. The different levels allow us to best utilize the unique skills all volunteers have to offer. Additionally, it enables Jester Park Equestrian Center to best fulfill the various rolls within the Heroes Program. Listed below are the three training levels and a short description of their major responsibilities.

**Peer Support Volunteer**
A Peer Support Volunteer is the foundation of the Selfless Service Volunteer Program. Peer Support Volunteers are individual oriented providing moral and emotional supports to the participating veterans while promoting safety. Peer supports are a positive advocate for the Horses Helping Heroes program and JPEC as a whole.

**Hands On Horse Volunteer**
A Hands On Horse Volunteer directly assists with the implementation of the weekly outline. Their primary role is to assist with horse management during the program. A Hands On Horse Volunteer should have the horse as their main focus to allow peer supports the space to build connections and relationships with the veterans.

**Program Assistant Volunteer**
A Program Assistant Volunteer is the highest level of certification a Selfless Service Volunteer can attain. Program assistants are knowledgeable and hold current certifications in the skills taught throughout the program. They are proactive about promoting positive horsemanship, and assisting the instructor in relaying the major themes of the Heroes Program.

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For more information about the programs within Horses Helping Heroes, or if you’re interested in pursuing becoming a Selfless Service Volunteer, please contact Veteran Program Coordinator, Carly Routh, at Carly.Routh@polkcountyiowa.com. Thank you for your support of our nation’s veterans.