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Michigan State University Extension Proud Equestrian Program (PEP) Adult Volunteers

PROGRAM DEFINITION

A therapeutic horseback riding program for individuals with disabilities helps improve balance, coordination, posture, and muscle tone. There are various ways to engage in 4-H PEP Programs. The appropriate volunteer screening level can be determined based on the individual's task or engagement level.

GOLD VOLUNTEER ROLES

Volunteers who have direct contact with program participants, handle finances, and consistently contribute to the 4-H PEP Program require Gold level screening. The program serves an audience who has increased vulnerability, meaning higher screening is needed for specific roles.

Examples may include:

- Lead & side walkers
- Individuals leading activities or engaged with program participants
- Tacking horses in the ring when changes need to be made
- PEP Lead Instructors & PATH Certified Professionals
- Adult board and committee members
- Individuals coordinating rider/horse combinations
- Individuals grooming horses with program participants
- Horse owners who are assisting participants in the program
- Individuals who have access to sensitive participant information
- Ring assistants
- Individuals who handle finances, including fundraisers, tack swaps, food stands, etc.
- Individuals pursuing a PATH certification

SILVER VOLUNTEER ROLES

Volunteers who have little to no contact with program participants and no access to sensitive participant information require Silver level screening. Below are examples of tasks silver volunteers may do to support the 4-H PEP Program. However, if a silver volunteer completes these tasks regularly throughout the program, they should be screened as a Gold Volunteer.

Examples may include:

- Check-in table
- Tacking horses, if only getting horses ready, never in the ring
- Organizing/cleaning/inventory tack and/or program supplies
- Gate attendant

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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- Announcer
- Judge

VEST COACH SUPPORT

Other volunteer roles within the PEP Program may require 4-H staff to discuss with their VEST coach to determine the appropriate screening level. If you are unsure what level of screening a volunteer should receive, 4-H staff should contact their VEST coach.