

Welcome, and thank you for choosing Orphan Acres Inc. for your volunteer experience.  
The last page is to be filled out and returned to the Orphan Acres Inc. office. Thank you.

# Volunteer Orientation Welcome!

**Orphan Acres Inc.**  
*Equine Rescue, Rehabilitation and  
Sanctuary*



Thank you for joining us!

Orphan Acres Inc. relies on the average 700 volunteers that pass through our gates annually to save the lives of hundreds of horses. We are happy to now include you, if you wish to help us take on our mission, in the Orphan Acres Inc. family. We want to be able to give each and every horse everything we can to help them succeed in finding a permanent home, while supporting our mission of providing community outreach. Part of the equation in making a difference in the lives of these horses is the help from regular volunteers. In the following pages we will go over some of the basic expectations for volunteers and basic safety guidelines. If you have any questions please feel free to ask or contact the main office at any time.

#### Brief History of Orphan Acres Inc.

Orphan Acres Inc. began in California in 1970 when Brent Glover started taking in horses who needed a second chance at life. In 1975 the organization was created, after moving to Idaho in 1985, it obtained its 501 c3 in 2001.

Our mission statement encompasses all we do; “Orphan Acres Equine, Rehabilitation, and Sanctuary, Inc. is to provide care and rehabilitation for abandoned, neglected, abused, and malnourished horses, while educating the public regarding the issues surrounding rescue and rehabilitation including all aspects of horse ownership and care.”

Since its foundation it has rehomed over 3,800 horses, been home to over 4,800 and currently houses around 80 or so. Each horse is given the best care we can give and a second chance at life but we never pressure or push to get horses into a home that might not be the best fit. We focus on a lot of special needs horses who may or may not be able to be rehomed and each of those gets the same care as a potential adoptable horse.

#### Expectations:

As a volunteer we will expect:

- You to uphold our mission statement and give your best when you visit
- That you come out during the hours that you sign up for, if for some reason you cannot make these hours you call ahead
- Return all tools and equipment to where you found them
- To always clean up after yourself (don't leave trash or bottles lying around)
- Follow basic safety guidelines, and know your limits (only agree to sign up for projects you can physically complete)
- Be nice to other volunteers
- Close and lock all doors, pasture gates and fences behind you
- Log your hours on the appropriate sheet (group sign out is allowed if the number of members is logged)
- Have a good time!

#### Safety Guidelines:

As a working ranch Orphan Acres Inc. owns heavy machinery as well as potentially dangerous equipment. Do not use any large tools or machinery if you have not been instructed to do so. If you do not know how to work them, do not try to figure it out, ask for help.

Remove all twine from hay bales as it can cause severe injury to the horses. Do not leave twine cutters out where they become hazards, put them back in the appropriate location. If blades become dull notify the appropriate person.

If any equipment breaks, stop and notify us right away. Turn all lights off and unplug any equipment when you're finished. Always put equipment away and clean up after yourself because it is a safety hazard to other volunteers and horses.

#### Basic Horse Smarts:

Horses are living creatures and do have minds of their own. The horses that Orphan Acres Inc. homes do potentially have poor manners. Because it is our goal to rehome these horses we expect that our volunteers are able to make the horses behave in a decent manner. If you have never been around or able to handle a horse before please have an experienced handler or volunteer show you, for your safety and the horses.

Always let the horses know you are there, by talking to them and if possible placing a hand on them if walking around or behind them. Do not make sudden moves or yell abruptly as horses are prey animals and usually have an adverse reaction to such things. At Orphan Acres Inc. it is our goal to help people develop a basic horse knowledge and expand their current knowledge, horsemanship skills and horse care, so we appreciate questions and will do our best to answer them and to help you learn how to handle our horses.

Please do not take out or handle the stallions unless specifically shown and asked to. This is for experienced handlers only to deal with. If you do interact with the stallions be sure to double check the doors and locks.

Do not move any of the horses unless asked to by an overseer. Horses are herd animals and certain animals may not get along with each other leading to potentially dangerous situations.

Volunteer information:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization affiliation (ex: CCE if none just put none) \_\_\_\_\_

Prior horse experience (Yes/ No if yes please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prior volunteer experience (Yes/ No if yes please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On this day, (print date) \_\_\_\_\_ I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ here by wave Orphan Acres Inc., its affiliates, board members and volunteers, at any time, of liability for injury physical or mental, from this point onward. I take upon myself any financial liability for any harm that may come to me at any point as well. I have read and reviewed the safety guidelines and have been made aware of the potential hazards of volunteering.

Orphan Acres Inc. holds the right to any images they may produce that have my image, if I wish to remove this right I understand I must inform the office in writing that I wish to revoke this right.

Under Idaho Law, Code 6-1801, an equine activity or sponsor or professional shall not be liable for any injury to, or the death of a participant or equine in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities.

I understand the information and here by agree to the terms and conditions above,

(sign and date): \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of legal parent or guardian if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_