



“Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies”

**Recipient of the Equine Industry Vision Award,
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PATH Intl. Standards Ensure the Safety and Quality of Its Programs

Denver—With the growing awareness of the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) field and the benefits therapeutic horsemanship may offer to individuals with special needs, the question naturally comes up: How do I know which center is best for my needs?

From its inception in 1969, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) members have focused on the establishment of industry guidelines for the practice and teaching of EAAT. As the premier professional membership organization, PATH Intl. establishes and oversees standards for the accreditation of centers and the certification of instructors and equine specialists.

The *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation* details the standards for the EAAT field, precautions and contraindications to therapeutic riding, a glossary of industry terms and sample forms. While these standards are voluntary, they provide the basis for PATH Intl. instructor certification and center accreditation. The accreditation process is a peer review system in which trained volunteers visit and review centers in accordance with these standards. A center that meets the accreditation requirements becomes a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center.

The commitment to quality center accreditation and instructor certification has become a cornerstone of the organization. PATH Intl. goals and objectives have continued to place emphasis on the importance of these programs, and its staff, volunteers and board are always working to ensure that PATH Intl. standards stay current, and an updated manual is released annually.

When the question of quality comes up, participants and their families can be confident that PATH Intl. Centers and Professionals deliver the safest, most ethical and most effective programs possible for the thousands of people participating in EAAT.

[Visit the PATH Intl. website](#) and discover why PATH Intl. is a global authority, resource and advocate for equine-assisted activities and therapies.

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About PATH Intl.:

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) was formed in 1969 to promote safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. The association certifies professionals and accredits centers that each year help 56,000 children and adults with physical, mental and emotional challenges find strength and independence through the power of the horse.

Currently 850 member centers offer therapeutic riding, and other therapeutic horsemanship activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, carriage driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work and stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, and under the direction of the PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful programs. There are nearly 52,000 volunteers, 4,232 instructors, 7,503 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. Centers.