



Information for Instructors in Training

The PATH Intl. therapeutic riding, interactive vaulting and therapeutic driving certification programs continue to require instructional competency for groups of participants and volunteers in mounted classes to be eligible for certification. We recognize that holding group activities presents a unique challenge in the time of COVID-19 and encourage instructors in training to consider the following to successfully and safely conduct group lessons:

- When lesson planning, consider games and lesson activities that allow volunteers to interact with the participants at a distance. If participant skill levels allow, volunteers can be incorporated into lesson activities at a distance from the participants and still support the lesson objectives. Consider positioning volunteers throughout the arena/activity area and instruct them how, when and where to engage with the participants as a part of lesson activities. Practicing/maintaining safety spacing can be included as part of the lesson objectives.
- Participants can be assigned their own family members as volunteers. Bear in mind this may require slightly different training to help the volunteers moderate their elevated level of investment in their loved one(s) and allow the participant to engage and follow instructions on their own.
- It is acceptable to use center staff as lesson volunteers, but ensure they are mindful of waiting for direction and not filling in the blanks for you. A key expectation of the supervised teaching hours is that applicants have experience managing and instructing teams of up to three volunteers per participant within in a lesson setting, so it is particularly for instructors in training to have opportunities to build their volunteer management. Entirely eliminating volunteers from the arena/lesson area while an instructor in training is teaching is not acceptable for safety and emergency response reasons.
- In certain circumstances, including cases of travel restrictions, applicants can be approved to receive long distance/virtual supervision of their teaching hours. For more information on requesting allowances available to applicants, review the booklet at <https://www.pathintl.org/images/pdf/resources/certifications/path-intl-allowances-booklet.pdf>.