



Dear Potential Mane Stream Volunteer,

Thank you for inquiring about volunteer opportunities with Mane Stream. We are always in need of volunteers **14 years of age or older\***, and are pleased that you are considering spending your valuable time helping our program. Volunteers play an essential role at Mane Stream and earn the lasting gratitude of our riders, therapy clients and their families.

All potential volunteers for Mane Stream must attend ONE volunteer orientation **and** ONE volunteer training session. The orientation will provide an overview of the programs offered by Mane Stream and will explain the responsibilities of a volunteer. The training session will provide a closer look at horse behavior, focusing on the horses in the Mane Stream herd, discussions on types of disabilities most often seen at Mane Stream and how volunteers can be of the most help to the riders & therapy clients. Training will involve hands-on practice of the skills introduced at orientation. Please note that an additional training is required for camp volunteers. Camp trainings will be scheduled in May & June.

**Pre-registration is required for these limited space orientation & training sessions (only 12-16 spaces available).**

**Upcoming Orientation & Training Sessions (subject to change):**

- Orientations: Tuesday, April 7 from 7-8:30pm or Saturday, April 25 from 9-10:30am.
- Trainings: Thursday, April 9 from 6-9pm or Saturday, April 25 from 10:45-2

**Volunteer Training Manual:** Please read the online [Volunteer Training Manual](#). We are currently updating our manual, and will send you the new link once it has been completed. The current manual will give you a good idea of what to expect for now though.

**Volunteering Opportunities:** Volunteers register for one 6-12 week session at a time, and then have the opportunity to sign up for the same slot in the next session, or they may try a new slot. Exact schedules will be available at training, and we'll let you know at that time which volunteering days and times have not yet been filled. If the volunteering spot you're interested in has been filled, you will be placed on a substitute list & will be contacted when one of the weekly volunteers is absent. ***Please bring the dates and times you are available to volunteer so that you can hand in your forms at the end of the training session.***

Possible volunteering opportunities include:

- Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) sessions: Physical, Occupational & Speech & Language Therapy
- Adaptive Riding lessons : Private & semi-private
- The Matheny School program: Tues mornings, 9:30-12, during Spring and Fall Sessions
- \*Camp Cold Brook: All inclusive camp for children with or without disabilities. 9 week-long sessions (Mon-Fri 8:30-2:15) ***(Please note that an additional training is required for camp volunteers. Camp trainings will be scheduled in May & June)***
- Horses for Healing: An equine assisted activities program for those living with, recovering from & living life after cancer
- Take The Reins: A program for veterans to provide physical rehabilitation through equine assisted therapy

**NEXT STEPS:** Please fill out and send in the enclosed volunteer registration form and the lower half of the orientation form ***before*** attending orientation. You will receive an email confirmation...if you do NOT, please contact me. Not able to attend this orientation? Just return a completed general volunteer registration form and you will be notified of the next scheduled orientation.

**Thank you again for your interest, and I look forward to meeting you soon! Carol Ferris, Volunteer Coordinator**

**Court-Mandated Community Service:** Volunteers seeking court-mandated community service hours will not be working directly with Mane Stream horses or riders/clients, and should contact Holland Kochanski ([Holland@manestreaminc.org](mailto:Holland@manestreaminc.org)) for details. Although these volunteers may choose to attend an orientation & training now with the intent of later becoming a program volunteer, all court-mandated hours must be completed ***before*** a volunteer will be allowed to work with our riders/clients.

\* Please note that anyone 14 years of age or older may apply to become a Mane Stream volunteer. However, due to the nature of volunteer responsibilities related to the clients we serve and the services we offer, volunteers must have the following skills including, but not limited to: the ability to engage in physically strenuous activity continuously for up to 45 minutes; the ability to assess and respond quickly in potentially dangerous situations to keep themselves and others safe; the ability to communicate clearly so as to be understood by the instructor, rider and other volunteers and the ability to understand and follow instructions. An initial assessment for suitability will be determined by Mane Stream staff at the volunteer training. In addition, volunteers will be monitored by instructors for their ability to meet volunteer criteria on a regular basis. Volunteers who do not meet the criteria to participate during lessons or therapy sessions may be invited to pursue volunteering with support functions for Mane Stream such as assisting at special events, mailings, etc. Please understand that these requirements are necessary for the well being and safety of both volunteers and riders/clients.

Phone: 908-439-9636

Fax: 908-439-2338

Email: [volunteer@manestreaminc.org](mailto:volunteer@manestreaminc.org)

Website: [www.manestreamnj.org](http://www.manestreamnj.org)

Mailing Address: Mane Stream PO Box 305 Oldwick, NJ 08858

Location: 83 Old Turnpike Rd. Oldwick, NJ



**Orientations:** Tuesday, April 7, 7-8:30pm **OR**  
 Saturday, April 25, 9-10:30am  
**Trainings:** Thursday, April 9, 6-9pm **OR**  
 Saturday, April 25, 10:45am-2pm *(15 minute break, please bring your lunch & beverage)*

Anyone 14 years of age or older interested in volunteering for Mane Stream (formerly Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center) is welcome to attend one of our mandatory orientation and training sessions before volunteering for Mane Stream. *Volunteers under the age of 18 will need a liability release form signed by a parent/guardian prior to orientation.*

**Pre-registration for orientations & training sessions is required and since space is limited trainings tend to fill quickly, so please submit your paperwork as soon as possible.**

Orientations and trainings are held at our center in Oldwick and start on-time (**please don't be late**). At orientation, you will learn about our program and the responsibilities of a Mane Stream volunteer. Follow-up training sessions will cover correct techniques for assisting our riders & therapy clients and handling our horses, as well as grooming and tacking skills.

**NEXT STEPS:** Return the lower half of this form to Mane Stream prior to orientation/training dates. You will receive an email either confirming your space, or you will be notified if the training has been filled. If you **DO NOT** receive an email confirmation please contact me to be sure that I have received your forms.

**Dress Code:** Please dress in layered "barn clothes" and boots/sneakers (no sandals) for the training session, as it will be held in the barn and unheated or air conditioned riding ring.

**Directions:** (GPS Directions: 83 Old Turnpike Rd. Oldwick -- try using the town of Califon if Oldwick does not work)

- Rte. 287 to 78W to Exit 24 (523 North towards Oldwick)
- Rte. 523 turns into Rte. 517 Continue through the town of Oldwick...General Store and Tewksbury Inn will be on your left.
- Mane Stream is about 1/2 mile past town, on your left...grey barn on top of a hill.

**Carol Ferris, Volunteer Coordinator**

Phone: 908-439-9636 Fax: 908-439-2338 Email: [volunteer@manestreaminc.org](mailto:volunteer@manestreaminc.org) Website: [www.manestreamnj.org](http://www.manestreamnj.org)  
 Mailing Address: Mane Stream PO Box 305 Oldwick, NJ 08858 Location: 83 Old Turnpike Rd. Oldwick, NJ



**Volunteer Orientation & Training Sessions**

*(an orientation must be attended prior to a training session)*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(A) \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the orientation on Tuesday, April 7, 7-8:30pm **OR**

(B) \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the orientation on Saturday, April 25, 9-10:30am

**AND**

(C) \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the follow up training session on Thursday, April 9 from 6-9pm **OR**

(D) \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the follow up training session on Saturday, April 25 from 10:45am-2pm (includes a 15 min. break, please bring a lunch & beverage.)