



B.O.K. Ranch

Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center



Some Things to Consider

Why PATH International?

There are many variations of horsemanship styles and disciplines. Some people think that their way is the “right way”, and, as a result, many barns operate based on the owner’s or boarders’ preferences. PATH Intl. has established an instructor certification process based on high quality standards that ensure that participants in Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) receive the best possible instruction. Not everyone may agree with PATH Intl. methods and standards, but to become a registered instructor, you must meet PATH Intl.’s criteria. Following PATH Intl.’s guidelines and standards creates a solid foundation on which to build your own EAAT program based on your horsemanship style.

Enhance Your Experience

Individuals starting this journey are either experienced equestrians or experienced teachers of individuals with special needs. Whatever your experience, your focus should be learning what you don’t already know. Using your skills as a special education or an adaptive physical education teacher, psychologist, recreational therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, riding instructor, or vaulting coach enhances your ability to gain specific knowledge in equine assisted activities and therapeutic horsemanship.

Benefits of the B.O.K. Ranch Instructor Mentorship Program

Being enrolled in the BOK Ranch Therapeutic Riding Instructor Mentorship Program provides guidance and education in preparation for employment in the field of (EAAT). When starting out in this field it is nice to have an experienced person who can answer your questions, provide assistance in lesson planning, setting rider goals, and writing progress notes. The Instructor in Training relies on the Mentor to sign off on the PATH horsemanship skills checklist, and to provide the necessary letters of recommendation. The Mentorship Program provides opportunities to ride different horses, become familiar with various disciplines and riding styles, and answer any questions to prepare for the PATH Certification and Accreditation Training (CAT) course.

Enrollment in the BOK Ranch Therapeutic Riding Instructor Mentorship Program also offers priority enrollment in an On Site Workshop Certification (OSWC) event held at the BOK Ranch. Enrollment in the BOK Ranch Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Mentorship Program does not guarantee the Instructor in Training will pass the OSWC. It does provide an excellent foundation that gives the Instructor in Training the best possible chance for success in achieving Registered Instructor Certification.

It Takes Time

Learning to teach EAAT can be EXCITING & CHALLENGING! You may feel like you are starting from scratch, because you are. The PATH Intl. website has information about certification, including a Road Map and Instructor Criteria. Give yourself at least 1 year to become a PATH Intl. Certified Instructor of Therapeutic Riding. **Good Luck!**

PATH International Registered Instructor Certification *Road Map

PHASE I

-12 Month Timeframe for Completion-

Submit PATH Intl. Individual Membership Application with membership dues



Submit Instructor Application with fee
(Valid for 1 year)

Purchase Standards Manual and Instructor Education Guide
(See application for prices and options)



Complete:

1. Pre-Certification Self-Assessment
2. Certification and Accreditation Training (CAT) Course and Exam
3. Instructor Self-Study Course and Exam



Complete Equine Management Skills Checklist



Provide proof of valid Adult/Child CPR and First Aid Certifications



Receive Instructor in Training (IT) Letter & Proceed to PHASE II

PHASE II

-12 Month Timeframe from time of PHASE I Completion-

Complete a minimum of 25 hours of teaching therapeutic riding instruction to groups of at least 2 riders under a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor (Teaching hours can be started at any time during the instructor application process and are valid for 2 years)



Attend a PATH Intl. On-Site Workshop and Certification (OSWC) event

Certification candidates are evaluated by PATH Intl. Evaluators on 2 components:

1. Riding/horsemanship skills demonstration
2. Teaching riders with disabilities

(Workshop can be completed at any time during the instructor application process and does not need to be completed at the same or location as the certification. Contact the center hosting the event to determine the cost of workshop and certification.)



Renew Instructor Membership ANNUALLY by submitting:

1. **Member Fee**
2. **20 hours of continuing education**

**Road Map based on PATH Intl. Certified Riding Instructor Certification Booklet*