

Apprentice Horse Trainer, Trail Guide and Ranch Hand - Unique Volunteer Leadership Position with potential for long-term opportunities Equus Rides @horsebackridingstcroix U.S. Virgin Islands

Is your dream to transform lives and train horses swimming in the sea? Are you awesome? You will be with EquUS! Get your "hooves" dirty as a volunteer, ranch hand, trail guide, and horse trainer and transform lives by creating meaningful connections with horses and humans while jumping for joy in the Caribbean Sea, making the world a better place for all!

Please review all information below, including links on our website and other sites, before applying. Applications without answers to required questions, three references identified, and a personalized detailed cover letter describing how you plan to contribute to our organization and demonstrating that you have done your research and homework before applying, cannot be reviewed.

Job description

Apprentice Horse Trainer, Lead Trail Guide, Ranch Hand - A Unique Volunteer Leadership Position with potential for long-term opportunities. The ideal candidate will be self-sustaining and simply want to spend their life with horses making meaningful horse-human connections and a better world for all.

This is a specialized, collaborative position that requires 120% dependability, accountability for time management (yours and others), being on time or early for work with no excuses, full responsibility for daily activities, patience and adaptability leading tours with beginner and advanced riders, and working alongside other volunteers and the public, including school groups, families, children, and people of all ages and backgrounds with special abilities and needs. Seeking positive role models who are eager to transform lives and change the world for the better, making lifetime memories connecting with people, horses, the land, and sea. The ideal candidate will have a positive attitude, big smile, integrity, mindful thinking, and willingness to work diligently as a team and individually.

About Us: At Equus Rides, we offer more than a typical horse riding tour. We enjoy seeing lives transformed, creating personal experiences, making dreams come true, and capturing bucket list memories on video of meaningful connections swimming with your horse in the warm, crystal-clear Caribbean Sea! Our 5-Star family-oriented business has been providing horse riding adventures for over 30 years, welcoming riders beginner to advanced of all ages and abilities. Unique offerings include individual, group, and private horseback riding tours, lessons, events, weddings, birthday parties, school programs, field trips, community events, parades, donkey rides, and more! Cowboy Steve and his crew's warm personalities, extensive horse and local knowledge, and commitment to excellence create a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone. People from all over the world come to spend their special day riding in the sea with our wonderful horses!

Website: www.horsebackridingstcroix.com

TikTok, Instagram, Facebook: @horsebackridingstcroix Equus Rides

Check out our [Tripadvisor Traveler's Choice Awards](#) - Equus Rides:

Direct Link: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g147403-d218580-Reviews-Equus_Rides-Frederiksted_St_Croix_U_S_Virgin_Islands.html

[Our Work](#) with Make-A-Wish Foundation:

Direct Link: https://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/news/st-croix-s-equus-rides-helps-make-wish-come-true-for-young-cancer-survivor/article_6d986635-e4e1-504f-994b-bee03add8ca6.html

Apprentice Position Summary:

Work outdoors in a warm climate by the rural seaside with 20 grazing horses, three donkeys, chickens, cats, butterflies, giant milkweeds, gardens, and more. Encourage others to achieve their greatest potential! Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of a rural Caribbean island and culture, swimming with horses and inspiring riders to stand up, make a wish, and jump for joy into the water, or meditate on the sea's horizon with your horse while looking for birds and sea turtles. This is more than a job - it is a gift, a way of life, a lifetime opportunity to keep you physically, mentally, and spiritually attuned, where the fruits of your labor offer an abundance of rewards - for you, children, families, the horses, community, and across the globe.

We are looking for an experienced horse trainer, trail guide, and ranch hand to apprentice with a fun and famous cowboy with over 60 years of experience in gentle training techniques working with horses, donkeys, and riders of all ages and abilities.

The successful candidate will be a wise natural leader who loves teaching and riding *non-competitively*, hiking, swimming, training and caring for horses, someone who authentically cares for riders and positive relationships with volunteers, vendors, co-workers, and all living beings. Must be a genuine, kind soul drawn to helping and uplifting people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, and a dependable self-starter who rolls up their sleeves and is accountable for daily on-the-ground operations, physical activities, and mundane tasks required to run a 5-Star horseback riding company.

This position requires an adventurous and loving spirit, a positive outlook on life, sense of humor, ability to meet people where they are at and work with them to achieve success. It requires a leader who can recognize and mitigate risks, accept change without notice, make complex decisions under pressure, and trust in the process...where some days are harder than others, some days are a vacation, some a mystery constantly unfolding...and where every day offers positive learning experiences that are appreciated as meaningful no matter what the challenge!

The successful candidate has an admirable proven track record of an innovative, can-do attitude, deep integrity, and strong work ethic. You will embrace lifelong learning, be willing to ask questions, collaborate, solve problems, and be eager to research and gain knowledge to stay ahead of the curve in managing animals, water, resources, land, and people, with illuminating love and light.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Lead Horseback Riding Lessons & Swimming Tours:** Greet and guide guests/riders, work with staff/volunteers to plan, organize, and lead 2-4 hour public and private tours swimming horses in the sea, through pastures, trails, beaches, up and down hills and local roads. Learn and share new and traditional knowledge about local ecology, culture, history, foods, flora, fauna, and of course, horses. Hike back country to round up, feed, groom, tack up, and maintain readiness of 6-10 horses for daily training activities and tour schedules.
- **Ensuring the safety and enjoyment of riders** and people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, including those with special needs and abilities, by walking along, leading, or riding. Encouraging riders to master a sense of peace, comfort, achievement, belonging, and connection with their horse, the island, and themselves.
- **Adaptability & Problem-Solving:** Quickly adapt to changing needs of human and horse, weather conditions, power/internet/phone outages, water shortages, and other unpredictable events while maintaining a positive, can-do attitude in challenging situations. Be prepared for the unexpected, whether it's wildlife, human, nature, or equipment issues.

- **Capturing professional photos & videos** to share lifelong memories and bucket list experiences with customers, web/social media. Uploading, organizing, editing, sharing files in a timely, efficient manner. Willingness to learn and share new technological skills.
- **Horse Care & Training:** Everything you do with a horse is both care AND training. Assist in routine, daily (morning/afternoon) feedings, and equine training activities using gentle methods like Justin Dunn Horsemanship and Linda Tellington-Jones' "T-Touch". Use this time for a hands-on hello, to inspect each horse in the herd throughout the day. Identify and report needs, administer/document preventative and medical care/first aid. Maintain inventory of supplies, purchase orders, accurate medical records, emergency contacts.
- **Daily Operations:** Carry out daily miscellaneous ranch duties, cleaning barn and stalls before/after tours, cleaning/repairing tack, ordering/purchasing supplies, and managing resources (feed/water, vehicles, supplies). Take initiative to identify and conduct routine maintenance/upkeep of fences, gates, water distributions, landscaping, site improvements, and facility needs. Use project management techniques to identify, document, track, and carry out tasks and projects to ensure completion.
- **Earth Work:** Explore pristine terrestrial and marine ecosystems to keep trails, beaches, and waterways clear of trash, debris, and dense, rapidly growing invasive bush. Lead routine beach and roadside cleanups to care for and beautify the environment.
- **Events & Outreach:** Assist with basic computer tasks (online booking systems, scheduling, monitor/reply to messages/emails). Organize and assist with camps, special events, field trips, birthdays, parades, festivals, school and community programs. Distribute flyers to local businesses. Explore new ways to extend our services, engage new audiences, and increase support for those with special abilities and needs by removing financial barriers and constraints that can often limit access to horses.
- **Mentorship & Education:** Serve as a mentor, role model, and supportive leader who pursues meaningful connections with youth, volunteers, families, educators, coworkers, equine therapists, and others to educate them on horse care, proper riding techniques, safety, and the healing benefits of relationships with horses, donkeys, and other animals. Promoting an inclusive, supportive environment and positive atmosphere for learning and growing.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- **Experience:** Recent professional horse training and trail guide experience, with a strong background in horse care, English and Western riding, and farm/facility management. Experience working with farriers, veterinarians, equine therapists, and diverse audiences with special needs of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Genuine, bright, fun, helpful customer service skills.
- **Physical Fitness:** Must be physically fit and agile with the flexibility and balance to move quickly and respond to sudden changes in direction or behavior of horses, riders, and outside influences. Ability to lead and handle multiple horses and riders at once to ensure safety of all. Must be able to lift, reach, and carry 50 lbs and possess the endurance to run alongside horses in the sun, rain, on the beach, and swim with horses in the sea. Ability to work for extended periods in a warm, humid, unpredictable environment.

- **Leadership & Communication:** Respectful leadership skills with clear, consistent communication and proven ability to inspire and guide a team while also connecting personally with each rider, guest, partner, families, vendors, and local community. Must be grounded, physically and emotionally available, and demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence through teamwork, as well as ability to work independently to accomplish small to complex tasks. This position requires an avid multi-tasker with endless patience and proven experience setting tangible goals that lead to process improvements and increase customer/staff satisfaction.

- **Holistic Lifestyle:** Passionate about nature, conservation, and a healthy approach to life and work. Deep appreciation for and understanding of the importance of meditation, rest, and diet to achieve optimal physical, mental, and emotional well-being and fitness required to lead and train horses and work for long hours outdoors. Must have an appreciation for mornings, getting work done early, and staying busy throughout the day. Commitment to creating a stress-free work environment for all. Peace-maker who can calmly de-escalate chaos and promote kindness toward all.

- **Commitment to Safety:** CPR/First Aid certification required or willing to obtain. Ability to adhere to safety protocols and handle emergencies calmly and effectively. Must be proactive and prepared. This is a specialized position that requires patience and adaptability. Living on a remote island requires safely adapting (yourself and others) to potentially harsh and/or frequently changing weather conditions and being prepared to deal with power/phone outages, internet failures, mosquitoes, rodents, unexpected emergencies, and challenges in remote areas without immediate resources - with stealth and without complaining. Must be positive at all times.

The most rewarding life comes from the ability to adapt and grow. We encourage applicants who can already successfully demonstrate personal growth through a past or present experience living and working in challenging climates and conditions training large animals and leading multiple groups on tours in remote areas.

PERKS:

- **Professional Development:** Apprentice with a professional cowboy, horse lover, trainer, and team. Free lessons, riding, continuing education credits. Unlimited equine therapy.

- **Community & Growth:** Become part of a supportive family, team, and community that values lifelong learning, oneness, diversity, and inclusiveness.

- **Island Living in a National Heritage Area:** Connect to nature and local culture living by the turquoise Caribbean Sea, snorkeling and scuba diving coral reefs, hiking, biking, enjoying local fruits and outdoor activities in a variety of ecosystems including beaches, mangroves, marsh, rainforest, and desert. Enjoy a meaningful, grounded lifestyle where every morning begins setting your intention for the day as you watch the sun rise around the curvature of the earth, and ends capturing sunsets and smiles swimming in the sea with horses. Embrace a life of fierce simplicity and deep rewards of:

- meditating under the stars to rejuvenate the spirit and rest easy
- preparing and sharing meals to build camaraderie and nourish our bodies
- fostering friendships and teamwork that make the dream work
- cultivating oneness that leads to a higher global vibration
- giving thanks for another day in paradise, every day.

● Enjoy a Volunteer Apprentice position with potential for long-term opportunities. The ideal candidate will be self-sustaining and simply want to spend their life with horses while making meaningful horse-human connections and a better world for all. This position could be perfect for you if you:

- Love leading tours, interacting with riders
- Love pursuing meaningful connections and seeing lives transformed
- Love telling fun stories, asking questions, and listening to others
- Love sharing positive feedback to encourage and inspire
- Love to stay active and drink a lot of water
- Love volunteering to help others and making people happy
- Love everyone you meet and care about their safety
- Love to create positive change in the workplace and world
- Love learning, growing, educating (yourself and others)
- Love hands in the Earth and swims in the sea
- Love contributing to your home and community
- Love living a holistic, healthy, lifestyle

Recognize the theme? Our motto at Equus Rides is #lovespokenhere.

Our horses and team must love you, too! We put a lot of effort into going over and beyond to exceed expectations of our guests and riders, schools, volunteer programs, and more. We have fun and love our work! The successful candidate will be eager to serve tourists and others with authentic happiness that both horse and human can sense deep from the heart. If this makes you smile, apply now and start making lifelong memories with families and friends swimming with horses and jumping for joy in the Caribbean Sea of the U.S. Virgin Islands!

Must have previous professional hands-on work or volunteer experience, with verifiable references.

Zero tolerance alcohol and drug-free work environment.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Housing negotiable for the perfect candidate. Must live on St. Croix or be willing to relocate at your own expense. We may be able to assist with locating housing options. Local applicants are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply: If you are ready to embrace this unique lifestyle and become a life-changing leader at Equus Rides, please send your resume, cover letter, and three references to canebaycowboy@gmail.com with the SUBJECT LINE: Apprentice Application + Your Name

Please review all information above and below, including links on our website and other sites, before applying. Applications without answers to required questions, three references identified, and a personalized detailed cover letter describing how you plan to contribute to our mission and demonstrating that you have done your research and homework before applying, cannot be reviewed.

We appreciate the time and effort you put into your application. Due to the high volume of applications, only candidates being considered will be contacted. Thank you!

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: Up to \$20.00 per hour (All long-term individuals are selected from our Volunteer Pool as successful candidates, specifically chosen by our horses as the perfect fit for our mission.)

Expected hours: 40 per week

Schedule:

- 8 hour shift

Application Question(s):

- Please describe your RECENT PROFESSIONAL Trail Guide and Horse Trainer experience, background in horse care, English and Western riding, and farm/facility management.
- This job requires you to be on time or early, responsible and dependable without excuses. Describe your work ethic and how you will accomplish this mandatory requirement for serving the public.

Experience:

- RECENT PROFESSIONAL Equine Experience: 4 years (Required)

Work Location: In person

