

# **VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE RIDES HAPPEN AND VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN HOW TO BE A BETTER COMPETITOR**

Volunteering is a great way to learn about the sport before participating in a ride. It's a way to watch and learn from experienced riders at competitions. You can pick up a lot of ideas and strategies. If you haven't camped with your horse yet, it's a great place to learn how to do this, too. You can walk around camp and see how different riders set up their camps and prepare for the ride.

Many volunteers are needed to run endurance rides. And the volunteering begins many weeks before a ride.

One job is walking trails and doing trail maintenance—making sure trails are clear for horses and riders.

Other jobs are marking the trails and drag riding. Marking the trail is tying ribbons on trees and other things on trail so the riders know where to go on the day of the ride.

Drag riding is going out on your horse after the last competitor has left on that segment or loop of the competition. You are a safety net if there is trouble on trail.

Other jobs include scribing/recording for the vets, taking horses' pulse and respiration rates (P&Rs), standing guard at road crossings, and giving out snacks and water at water stops on trail.

If you're interested, reach out to our ride managers! I'm sure they can find a spot for you. Or visit our website:

<http://www.olddominionrides.org/volunteer.html>

Come and join the smiles and the fun!