



LEIGH BARNES: Volunteer Spirit Award

Leigh's volunteer commitment over the last 3+ years has been entirely dedicated to Saddle Up!. She has logged **800+** all-time hours with us over this time period, with nearly **300** hours donated so far in 2021. Saddle Up! could not operate without devoted volunteers like Leigh. She is a volunteer rider favorite! Many of our participants know her by name and are so excited to see her in their lesson.

It is invaluable to have volunteers that we can call on any time to do any variety of tasks. Leigh is one of these people. We see her on a near daily basis, she stays for long shifts, and is always one to raise her hand to help with absolutely anything we need. She comes out to help us with special events and even comes out when programs are not in session to bathe horses and help with barn maintenance. We cannot get enough of her, and we are so grateful to her for being such a devoted volunteer. Her dedication is one of the many reasons that Leigh was voted Saddle Up!'s 2019 Volunteer of the Year.

Comment from Barn Manager Natalie Pauley, "Leigh is a lifesaver for many reasons. She helps so much in lessons, but she has also been a huge help to us in the barn. I really consider her a co-worker, because I feel like she is here as much as I am! She has a huge heart for the children and the horses, and we are so grateful to have her on our team. We literally couldn't do this work without people like Leigh."

Comment from Instructor Lindsey Wood, "Leigh is very kind and always helpful. Great with all types of kids and horses. Dedicated, consistent volunteer that is willing to help with anything."

Prior to becoming a Saddle Up! volunteer, Leigh and her pet therapy dog, Bear, were regular volunteers at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

1549 Old Hillsboro Road, Franklin, TN 37069 saddleupnashville.org 615-794-1150 [@saddleupnashville](https://www.instagram.com/saddleupnashville)

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