



**dreamcatcher™**  
nature assisted therapy

53044 RR #213

Ardrossan, Alberta, T8G 2C4

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[Volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:Volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com)

[www.dreamcatcherassociation.com](http://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com)

**Eileen Bona M.Ed. / Founder**

[eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com)

## **Dreamcatcher™ Volunteer Application Form**

### **Volunteer Qualities**

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- Age limit is 14 years of age and older to volunteer independently (at the discretion of the volunteer coordinator).
- Volunteers under 14 will be required to volunteer with a parent/ guardian who will be responsible for the safety and behaviour of the child/youth and for the completion of all shift tasks.
- Dependable and able to make a commitment
- Has reliable transportation
- Enjoys working with children and youth
- Enjoys working with animals
- Is in good health (some aspects of the work will be physical in nature)
- Willing to complete all orientation & shadow shift trainings
- Having good solid horse and other animal experience is an asset
- Must be able to commit to at least 2 shifts per month or a single 8-hour shift (for some positions only)
- Current First-aid/CPR is an asset

### **Required Documents**

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- Application Form
- Current (within 6 months) Vulnerable Sector Check
- Current (within 6 months) Child Intervention Check
- Confidentiality Agreement Form
- Liability Waiver and Risk Acknowledgement Form
- Expectations & Responsibilities Form
- Photo Release Form (*Optional*)

### **How to Apply**

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- Contact the Dreamcatcher™ Volunteer Coordinator – email: [volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com) for more information
- Fill out the Application form and submit (with a resume if possible)
- Attend an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator
- Complete or submit a recent (within 6 months) Child Intervention Check AND Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Check
- Attend orientation & at least 2 shadow shift trainings
- Get on the Volunteer email list & calendar
- Get Started!

## Volunteer Information

|  |                                   |   |                                 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>First Name</b>  | <b>Last Name</b>                  | <b>Date of Birth</b>  |                                 |
| <b>Primary Phone Number</b>  | <b>Secondary Phone Number</b>     | <b>Email Address</b>  |                                 |
| <b>Complete Mailing Address, including postal code</b>   |                                   |   |                                 |
| <b>Emergency Contact Information</b>   |                                   |   |                                 |
| Emergency contact #1   | Phone Number:                     | Relation:   |                                 |
| Emergency contact #2   | Phone Number:                     | Relation:   |                                 |
| Emergency contact #3   | Phone Number:                     | Relation:   |                                 |
| <b>Medical History</b>   |                                   |   |                                 |
| <b>Medical Conditions</b>  |                                   | <b>Current Medications</b>  |                                 |
| Y<br>N   | <b>Allergies?</b>                 | Y<br>N  | <b>Asthma?</b>                  |
| Y<br>N   | <b>Do you require an Epi-pen?</b> | Y<br>N  | <b>Do you require a Puffer?</b> |
| <b>Personal Health Care Number</b>   |                                   |   |                                 |
| <b>Physician Name</b>  |                                   | <b>Physician Phone Number:</b>  |                                 |
| <b>Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment</b>   |                                   |   |                                 |
| <p>In the event that emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during the process of volunteering, or while being on the property of or with any program run by Dreamcatcher™, I authorize the Dreamcatcher™ staff to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure and retain medical treatment, assist with administering my medication, and transportation if needed</li> <li>2. Release records upon request to the authorized individuals or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.</li> </ol> <p>The authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication, and any treatment procedure deemed 'life saving' by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) listed above is unable to be reached.</p> |                                   |   |                                 |
| <b>Date</b>  |                                   | <b>Consent Signature Volunteer (over 18), parent or legal guardian:</b> |                                 |

## Volunteer Position Descriptions

### **Animal Care**

Volunteers help with providing daily care & enrichment for the animals by doing regular duties (e.g., feeding/cleaning) & irregular duties (e.g., gutting coops, trimming talons/hooves). They may also help with animal handling.

**What to Expect:** Volunteers must be able to commit to 2 shifts per month. Shifts are approx. 1.5-3 hours per shift. They should be prepared to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

### **Tourism & Recreation**

Volunteers who help in this position will assist with Dreamcatcher™ events. Roles involve event set up/tear down, tour guides, animal handlers, magical forest creators, market booth attendants, program developers and more!

**What to expect:** Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 1 shift per month. Shifts are approx. 4-8 hours per shift. They should expect to arrive earlier & stay later to help up/tear down & should prepare to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

### **Day Camps/Youth Retreats, Fur & Fun Days**

Volunteers assist with organizing and setting up activities, supervise children/youth, animal handle, assist the therapists with all activities, and help with cleaning up afterwards.

**What to expect:** Volunteers will assist throughout the week during the day either in the mornings only, full-day, or evenings, and commit to either full-time (7 days/full days) or part-time (7 days/half day or 4 days/full day) shifts. Volunteers can expect to spend 3.5 to 4 hours per shift and to arrive earlier & stay later to help with set up/tear down and briefing/debriefing.

### **Special Skills**

Do you have a special skill you would like to share with us? Volunteer duties & expectations will vary based on the skill that the volunteer is offering to us.

Some examples include: Photography/videography, event planning/tourism development, leadership roles such as team leads/supervisors & community ambassadors, program development, providing in-kind services (e.g., administration, marketing, HR, volunteer coordination, bookkeeping, etc).

### **Farm Maintenance**

Volunteers may assist with minor maintenance duties (e.g., fixing fences, chopping wood, etc.) or aid in larger duties (e.g., building shelters, clearing trees, etc.). Running tractors, lawn mowers, & working with tools may also be permitted.

### **Charity Board**

Volunteers may assist with grant writing, fundraising & other fund development opportunities, & assist with major events.

**Please visit our website for the full position descriptions:** <https://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com/getinvolved.html>

## Volunteer Placement

| <b>What areas of Dreamcatcher™ would you like to volunteer with? (please select all that apply)</b> |  |                                 |  |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Animal Care</i>  |  | <i>Tourism &amp; Recreation</i> | <i>Day Camps/Youth Retreats &amp; Fur &amp; Fun Days</i> |
| <i>Special Skills</i>   |  | <i>Farm Maintenance</i>         | <i>Charity Board Member</i>                              |
| <b>If you selected “Special Skill”, please explain:</b>   |  |                                 |  |
|   |  |                                 |  |

## Volunteer Availability

| How long do you plan to volunteer for?     |                                       | Which are you preferred days?   |                  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Long-Term (6 months or longer)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Monday</i>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Short-Term (at least 3 months)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Tuesday</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Single-Time Only</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Wednesday</i> |
| <b>What time of day are you available?</b> |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Thursday</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Mornings (8:00am-12:00pm)</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Friday</i>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Afternoons (12:00pm-4:00pm)</i>    | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Saturday</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Evenings (4:00pm-8:00pm)</i>       | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <i>Sunday</i>    |
| <b>Number of days per week</b>             |                                       | <b>Number of hours per week</b> |                  |

## Relevant Background, Experience, & Training

| Do you have First Aid/CPR Training?       |                     | Do you have reliable transportation? |                                 | Do you have any of the following training? |                                       |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                  | <i>Yes, current</i> | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <i>Yes, own vehicle</i>         | <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Animal Assisted Therapy</i>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                  | <i>Yes, expired</i> | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <i>Yes, someone else drives</i> | <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Equine Facilitated Counselling</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                  | <i>No</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <i>No</i>                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                   | <i>Other Horse Training</i>           |
| <b>Any previous volunteer experience?</b> |                     |                                      |                                 |  |                                       |

## Volunteer Goals & Interests

**Why have you chosen to volunteer at Dreamcatcher™?**

**Do any of your goals align with these?**

|                          |   |                          |  |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>To give back to the community and/or organization</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reconnect with society and other volunteers/being apart of a community</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Academic development (i.e., hoping to work with animals in practice, further education in AAT, etc.)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Professional development (e.g., networking, skill building, resume/CV enhancement, references, letters, fulfill volunteer requirements, etc.)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Hoping to secure a paid position with Dreamcatcher™ in the future</i>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Hoping to do a practicum at Dreamcatcher™ in the future</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>None of the above</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Other</i>   |

**If “Other” or if your goals are academic or professional, please explain below:**

| <b>How do you like to be appreciated?</b>                              |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Informal Events (e.g., parties/get togethers</i>                    | <i>Galas/Formal Events</i>                                    |
| <i>Gifts/Swag</i>  | <i>Available Snacks/Beverages While on Shift</i>              |
| <i>Verbal Thank-you (e.g., in-person, over the phone, video, etc.)</i> | <i>Written Thank-you (e.g., cards, emails, texts, etc.)</i>   |
| <i>None of these</i>   | <i>Other</i>  |
| <b>If you selected “Other”, please explain:</b>                        |   |
| <b>Where did you hear about us?</b>                                    |   |
| <i>Word of mouth (e.g., volunteer, friend, family, etc.)</i>           | <i>Previous event/activity</i>                                |
| <i>Social media</i>  | <i>Volunteer matching service (e.g., Volunteer Connector)</i> |
| <i>Website</i>   | <i>Volunteer Strathcona</i>                                   |
| <i>Poster/Brochure</i>   | <i>Other</i>  |
| <b>If you selected “Other”, please explain:</b>                        |   |

## **Volunteer Scope of Practice & Legalities**

### **Disclaimer**

Volunteers at Dreamcatcher™ do not participate in any aspect of counselling with the clients at the Dreamcatcher™ program.

Group Volunteers will have the opportunity to observe and learn about the experiential aspects of an Animal Assisted Therapy group and will interact with and support clients during some of these activities.

If a client were to make a disclosure to a volunteer or seek counselling support in any way, the volunteer must refer and report this to one of the mental health therapists working with the group as soon as possible. Also, any animal-related concerns, such as any abusive behavior or an incident resulting in injury, is to be reported immediately.

Any client information a volunteer is exposed to must remain confidential to maintain the privacy and safety of the client.

### **Insurance**

All volunteers are covered for general liability under Dreamcatcher™’s insurance policy while working on Dreamcatcher™’s premises and under Eileen Bona’s supervision. Volunteers are NOT covered for professional liability and do not participate in any aspects of counselling with Dreamcatcher™ clients. Volunteers will be required to sign a risk and liabilities waiver.

## **Photo Release Form (Optional)**

I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Therapy of any and all photographs and/or any other audiovisual materials taken of me / my son /my daughter / my ward / my animal, for promotional printed material, educational activities, exhibitions, or for any other use for the benefit of the program.

**Please Circle One**

**I Consent**

**I Do Not Consent**

### **Required Forms**

#### **Volunteer Expectations & Responsibilities**

Please note that “supervisory staff” refers to the Volunteer Coordinator, Therapists, Clinical Manager, Manager of Administration, and CEO. Volunteers will report directly to the Volunteer Coordinator unless the Volunteer Coordinator is unavailable in which case volunteers will report to the next staff in charge. “Supervisory staff” may also refer to any staff leading a particular event on site or off site.

**As a Volunteer at Dreamcatcher™, you are responsible for the following:**

1. Arriving on time to your scheduled volunteer activities.
2. Checking in with and reporting to the Volunteer Coordinator (unless after hours and staff are not on site).
3. Informing the Volunteer Coordinator and/ or supervisory staff of absences well in advance. At least 2 weeks notice with the exception of emergencies and situations out of your control such as illness or car trouble.
4. Attempting to find shift coverage. If you cannot secure coverage, you must inform the Volunteer Coordinator immediately.
5. Following the direction of the Volunteer Coordinator for all activities.
6. Completing all of your assigned tasks in an efficient and effective manner.
7. Dressing appropriately for the tasks to be completed both on site and off site. Ensuring closed toed shoes are worn when working around or with the animals.
8. Wearing a helmet at all times while riding any animal on the property. Special note: Riding animals is a specific volunteer activity only assigned to volunteers with the required amount of large animal experience.
9. Maintaining your safety at all times.
10. Maintaining the safety of the Dreamcatcher™ animals at all times.
11. Reporting any issues, incidents, illness, injuries or concerns regarding Dreamcatcher™ animals to supervisory staff.
12. Reporting any injury or incident involving yourself and/or an animal to supervisory staff.
13. Reporting any issues or incidents relating to Dreamcatcher™ property to supervisory staff.
14. Respecting the privacy of the homeowners and their private property.
15. Working within your scope of training as a volunteer.
16. Refraining from entering animal enclosures that you have not been given permission to enter.
17. Working only with animals that you are competent and confident to work with.
18. Maintaining the confidentiality of all aspects of the Dreamcatcher™ practice at all times, especially in regard to Dreamcatcher™ clients.
19. Treating Dreamcatcher™ staff, clients, volunteers and animals with the utmost care, respect and consideration.
20. Asking for assistance from supervisory staff (Volunteer Coordinator or other staff), without hesitation, when necessary.

21. Ensuring you have a current Criminal Records Check and Child Welfare Intervention Record check on file with Dreamcatcher™ Administration personnel (with exception of persons under the age of 18).
22. Ensuring that all of your volunteer forms are filled out and submitted to the Volunteer Coordinator.
23. Reporting any witnessed incidents of disrespect to clients, staff or animal abuse occurring at Dreamcatcher™ to supervisory staff.
24. Reporting any abusive comments made by others in regard to people or animals associated with Dreamcatcher™ to supervisory staff.
25. Maintaining the cleanliness of the Dreamcatcher™ sites and offices. Please leave things as you found them or better.
26. Turning off all heaters and lights in Dreamcatcher™ out buildings and offices if you are the last one out.
27. Being a model representative of Dreamcatcher™ while on duty as a volunteer both on site and off site.
28. Attending regular volunteer training sessions and volunteer meetings when scheduled.
29. Bringing all questions, concerns and comments directly to supervisory staff. If you find yourself in a situation of which you are unsure of what to do, please do not hesitate to ask your supervisory staff for direction.
30. Giving Dreamcatcher™ at least 2 weeks notice of resignation from your volunteer position so that we can make arrangements for another volunteer to take your place.
31. Please note that friends and relatives may NOT attend your volunteering time WITHOUT permission from supervisory staff. This is for confidentiality and safety reasons.
32. Please DO NOT bring your own pets to Dreamcatcher™ without permission from supervisory staff as it can cause safety issues for Dreamcatcher™ animals, other visitors, and your pet.

**Please Circle One**

**I Agree to these Terms**

**I Do Not Agree to these Terms**

### **Official Oath of Confidentiality**

*Canada*

*Province of Alberta*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, recognize that my role as a Volunteer with Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Therapy will entitle me to certain information about staff, animals, other volunteers, programs, groups, methods, approaches and program participants which should be treated as confidential.

All information about Dreamcatcher, its staff, animals, groups, programs, materials, approaches, philosophies and participants shared with me by facilitators, group staff, volunteers or anyone else I meet through my volunteerism with Dreamcatcher, its parents / instructors / program participants or staff in relation to Dreamcatcher™ will be discussed only with the personnel of Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Therapy.

At no time will I discuss any information about Dreamcatcher™, its programs, groups, animals, approaches or program participants with other individuals, practitioners, parents / care givers or volunteers. I recognize that all materials, group designs, methods, approaches and papers pertaining to Dreamcatcher™, its programs, groups, animals and program participant's and animal's care are legal documents, and that all information contained therein is copywritten and confidential.

**Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (18 or over), Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

For Participants in the Province or Territory in which the Animal and Nature Activities are provided by the Host  
If Participant is underage, a Legal Guardian must sign and initial on their behalf.

**WARNING: THIS AGREEMENT WILL AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY!**

Every Person Must Read and Understand this Waiver Before Participating in Animal and Nature-Assisted Activities  
The following waiver of all claims, release from all liability, assumption of all risks, agreement not to sue and other terms of this agreement are entered into by me (the Participant) with and for the benefit of 1320394 Alberta Ltd a.k.a Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Therapy a.k.a Dreamcatcher™, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, business operators, agents and site-property owners or leasees (collectively the “Host”). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, “Animal and Nature Activities” include but are not limited to interacting with large animals including equines, interacting with a variety of farm animal species, riding equines, being in a farm environment, nature walks, skating, tobogganing, nature crafting or building in nature, hayrides and animal training provided by the “Host” to the Participant.

### **Initial Each Item Below After Reading and Understanding Each Item:**

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that there are inherent dangers, hazards and risks (collectively “Risks”) associated with “Animal and Nature Activities” and injuries resulting from these “Risks” can occur. I am aware that the “Risks” of “Animal and Nature Activities” mean those dangerous conditions which are an integral part of “Animal and Nature Activities”, including but not limited to:

- a) the propensity of any equine, ruminant, canine, feline or fowl to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them and to potentially collide with, bite or kick other animals, people or objects;
- b) the unpredictability of an equine, ruminant, canine, feline or fowl’s reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement, tremors, vibrations, unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals and hazards such as subsurface objects;
- c) the potential for other participants to behave in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to themselves or others, including failing to act within their abilities to maintain control over an equine, ruminant, canine, feline or fowl; and
- d) the potential for participants to fall over or from obstacles, from equines, or from moving vehicles that may be found in a nature setting.
- e) the potential to be at greater risk of illness or infection while working in an outdoor setting or with any equine, ruminant, canine, feline, or fowl, particularly for person with auto-immune deficiencies.
- f) the potential to be at greater risk of illness or infection while working with animals while pregnant.
- g) the potential for wildlife encounters and the unpredictable nature of such animals.

\_\_\_\_ I freely accept and fully assume all responsibility for all “Risks” and possibilities of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting from my participation in “Animal and Nature Activities”.

\_\_\_\_ All pregnant visitors to Dreamcatcher™ will refrain from: entering the fowl coops or touching eggs; riding or mounting equines; strenuous or over-extending work, activities or demonstrations; being near animals that have recently given birth; being near cat litter boxes or feces.

\_\_\_\_ I agree that although the “Host” has taken steps to reduce the “Risks” and increase the safety of the “Animal and Nature Activities”, it is not possible for the “Host” to make the “Animal and Nature Activities” completely safe. I accept these “Risks” and agree to the terms of this waiver even if the “Host” is found to be negligent or in breach of any duty of care or any obligation to me in my participation in “Animal and Nature Activities”.

\_\_\_\_ In addition to consideration given to the “Host” for my participation in “Animal and Nature Activities”, I and my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators and assigns (collectively my “Legal Representatives”) agree:



- a) to waive all claims that I have or may have in the future against the “Host”;
- b) to release and forever discharge the “Host” from all liability for any personal injury, death, property damage, or loss resulting from my participation in the “Animal and Nature Activities” due to any cause, including but not limited to negligence (failure to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances), breach of any duty imposed by law, breach of contract or mistake or error in judgment of the “Host”
- c) to be liable for and to hold harmless and indemnify the “Host” from all actions, proceedings, claims, damages, costs demands, including court costs and costs on a solicitor and own client basis, and liabilities of whatsoever nature or kind arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in “Animal and Nature Activities”.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that this waiver and all terms contained herein are governed exclusively and in all respects by the laws of the Province or Territory of Canada in which the “Animal and Nature Activities” are provided by the “Host”. I hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that Province or Territory of Canada and I agree that no other court can exercise jurisdiction over the terms and claims referred to herein. Any litigation to enforce this waiver will be instituted in the Province or Territory of Canada in which the “Animal and Nature Activities” are provided by the “Host”.

\_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have had sufficient time to read and understand this waiver in its entirety. I understand that this agreement represents the entire agreement between myself and the “Host”, and it is binding on myself and my “Legal Representative”.

\_\_\_\_\_ I confirm that I have reached the age of majority in the province in which I am participating in “Animal and Nature Activities”.

**Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (18 or over), Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Privacy Statement**

Dreamcatcher™ Nature Assisted Therapy respects the privacy of our clients, employees, members and volunteers. We do not sell or solicit your personal information. We use the information collected on this form for our records and to keep you informed about future events and for project evaluation. We may use this information to inform you about programs, services, events and other volunteer opportunities. We honour all requests for removal from any and all mailing lists and all requests for donor anonymity. Medical history information is only collected to keep in your personal file record for use of in case of emergencies only.

In the event that you want to review, update, or discard your personal information at any time, please send a request to the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:volunteer@dreamcatcherassociation.com)

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with our organization! Once your application has been received, our Volunteer Coordinator will contact you with the information provided in this application form, and an interview may be scheduled at your convenience.

If you are looking for a career opportunity, please check our "[Get Involved](#)" webpage for information about current openings and how to apply. If you are looking for a field placement, please contact Eileen Bona directly at [eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:eileen@dreamcatcherassociation.com)