

Can you help?

Kansas Dressage and Eventing needs to expand its base of volunteers for shows and that just might involve YOU! We all know that our time is precious, but would you consider giving a few hours of your time so that others can participate in a schooling show or recognized show? If you ask those who have volunteered in the past, you will find that we don't expect you to know everything about your job, and most likely you will meet new people and have a good time. Check out the list below for the available volunteer positions...

--**In Gate**. This person has a clipboard with all the ride times and makes sure that riders enter in order, and on time. The in gate person is the one who usually finds out about scratches (people who suddenly decide not to ride a test or don't show up) and is responsible for notifying the office (and perhaps the judge) that the rider is a "no show." The riders all look to this person for information as to whether the show is running on time, and which horse they follow into the ring. The great thing about this job is that you get to watch every ride, and you also get to see warm up (which is where the really interesting things happen).

--**Warm up**. This person also has a clipboard with ride times, and the warm up steward sends upcoming riders to the in gate area. The warm up person is also responsible for safety concerns in warm up – identifying a problem (such as a runaway pony with screaming child) and taking steps to halt all riders until the situation is under control.

--**Scribe**. This job requires legible handwriting and requires that you be able to write quickly and under pressure. If you don't have legible handwriting, or if it takes forever for you to write something down, you need to disqualify yourself from this job. Riders come to a show to get the judge's comments, and the rider must be able to read the comments, and be assured that the comment and score were placed in the correct box.

A schooling show is a great place to learn to scribe, and you can find out if you "have what it takes" do scribe at a recognized show (where the scores count and there is a lot more pressure). Some people are able to scribe, but the pressure of the moment is too great and they find they can only scribe for an hour or two at the lower levels.

--**Scorer**. Even if you have difficulty running a calculator, you can probably do this job. Scoring requires attention to detail (notice an error, make sure there is a score in every box, make sure the judge signed the test) and then some basic math skills. It is helpful if you know how to run a 10-key adding machine, but not essential.

--**Stadium Crew**. If the show offers a combined test, there is a need for people to help with the Stadium portion of the schooling show. These folks are responsible for resetting fences that are knocked down, and setting the fences to a new height after a change in class. One of the crew usually picks up a stopwatch and times stadium, running out to reset a fence after the round is over and the time has been given to the judge. There is also a warm up steward and an in gate person (just like described above) who make sure that the correct rider gets in the ring in the correct order at the correct time. The stadium scribe sits with the judge and marks down whether the rider went clear, or had refusals and/or time penalties.

Now for the two biggies at a schooling show:

Secretary – The secretary receives all the entries for the show and makes sure that the person paid the right amount for the classes, has a Coggins that is not out of date, and has indicated which classes in which they want to ride (you'd be surprised how many entries come in without any class information). A few days after the closing date, the secretary schedules the ride times (which does require some knowledge, but KDEA members can provide you a hand with this task) and creates a program with all the ride times. The secretary then sends out postcards to each rider to tell them their ride times. The next task is to write the horse/rider name and number on a dressage test and arrange the tests by class for the judge. The last thing is to create a "packet" which includes a program, the number, and makes note of any missing information that must be provided at check in on the day of the show.

Manager – The manager assists the Secretary as needed (i.e. Secretary can call the manager for help) but the manager's primary job is finding volunteers and then making sure the day of the show runs smoothly. Two to three weeks before the show, the manager needs to call potential volunteers to get a commitment, and then a few days before call them back to tell them what time they need to arrive and what they will be

expected to do. The manager also needs to make contact with the judge about a week before the show to advise the judge of the start time for the show, and the manager arranges housing for the judge (if necessary) and meals the day of the show. The manager needs to coordinate with the facility manager to assure that the facility will be ready and stabling requests are able to be met. The manager then must assure that the dressage ring (and stadium course, if a combined test) is set up the day before the show and that directional signs are put out for the office and designated parking.

So – did you find something you think you can do? Surely there is something here that you'd like to do for a few hours on a weekend. While you are volunteering, you get to see people ride their horses (you might get to see someone's new horse) and you get to talk to other horse folks. If you want to show, it can be worked out that you ride your classes and then volunteer for a few hours (or vice versa).

If you are interested in helping with a KDEA schooling show this year, email Susan Lang or Maribeth Willard at smlang2@cox.net or mbwillard@live.com. See you soon!