Horse Power Instructor Training School (HPITS) Course Curriculum

The following lists the mandatory minimum curriculum that Touchstone Farm offers during the three month course as determined by PATH Intl. This list does not detail the order in which it will be taught, it only lists the content and minimum hour requirement. During orientation you will receive a detailed outline of when items will be taught throughout the course and key faculty members. Touchstone Farm prides itself on teaching much more than the required hour requirement in most every category of the curriculum; the additional curriculum items are not listed here. Throughout the course there are also a variety of field trips, special events such as the Centered Riding Clinic, guest lectures, exams, and additional practicum opportunities.

Lecture/Theory/Classroom Component: (85 hours total – mandatory minimum required)

Item	PATH Hr Requirement
Introduction a) History and What is Therapeutic Riding b) History of PATH Intl. c) Overview of Therapeutic Model d) PATH Intl. Organizational Structure e) Instructor Recognition Process	1
Human Growth and Development	2
Human Behavior and Psychology	4
Anatomy, Physiology, Kinesiology a) Medical terminology and Vocabulary b) Movement Analysis c) Precautions and Contraindications	14
Disability Instruction (Etiology, Behavior Management, Disability Awareness & Sensitivity Training) a) Physical Impairments b) Cognitive Impairments c) Sensory Impairments d) Psychosocial Impairments e) Speech and Language Impairments	28
Facilities and Equipment a) ADA & OSHA Regulations – *2 hrs recommended* b) Facility Design: Barn, Tack Room, Arena – *1 hr recommended* c) Procedure i) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) ii) Safety, Program, Assurance – *2 hrs recommended*	5
Tack and Special Equipment (Application, Design and Precautions, Proper Fitting)	2
Therapeutic Riding Instruction a) Role and Responsibilities of Instructor – *2 hrs recommended* b) Definition of Therapeutic Instructional Team – to include: instructor, therapist, riders, families, volunteers, community, etc. c) Teaching Techniques and Strategies i) Styles (teaching and learning styles) – *4 hrs recommended* ii) Considerations and application relating to specific disabilities – 4 hrs recommended iii) Lesson Structure and Plans – lesson plans, goals and objectives, task analysis, components of lesson, skill progression, activities, games, exercises, documentation, and evaluation iv) Mounting and Dismounting Techniques – *3 hrs recommended* Body mechanics, types, procedures and guidelines	13

The Therapy Horse a) Selection and Training b) Maintenance and Management c) Documentation d) Ethical Considerations e) Horse care and handling	3
Volunteers a) Research and Recruitment b) Roles and Training c) Retention and Reward d) Documentation and Evaluation	2
Rider a) Assessment and Documentation i) Motor Skills and Coordination ii) Strength, Endurance and Flexibility iii) Speech and Language iv) Psychological Assessments b) Precautions and Contraindications	3
Administration Overview a) Program Consideration i) Incorporation/Non-Profit ii) Board of Directors iii) Development iv) Fundraising v) Marketing vi) Public Relations vii) Grant Writing b) Legal Issues i) Risk Management and Inclusions/Exclusions	4

Practicum Component: (85 hours total – mandatory minimum required)

The practicum will provide sufficient opportunity to apply and demonstrate the components of therapeutic riding instruction listed.

Item	PATH Hr Requirement
Lesson Plans a) Task Analysis b) Skill Progression c) Exercises d) Games and Activities	85 total
Mounting and Dismounting	
Training, Care, and Schooling of Horses	
Use and Adjustment of Tack and Special Equipment	
Volunteer Orientation and Management	
Teaching a) Mounted and Unmounted Lesson b) Riders with Disabilities c) Able-Bodied Riders	