



Regional Conference

July 29-30, 2022

Presented by: PATH Intl. Region 5

**Hosted by:
Special Equestrians, Inc.
Indian Springs, Alabama**

PATH Intl. Region 5 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Alabama. Your registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Saturday.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Special Equestrians, Inc.
1215 Woodward Drive
Indian Springs, AL 35124
205-987-WHOA (9462)
(on the school campus)

Indian Springs School
190 Woodward Drive
Indian Springs, AL 35124

Lodging Options *** Rates Subject to Change ***

Comfort Suites 2235 Pelham Parkway Pelham, AL 35124 205-623-2911	2 Queens King	\$229 \$239	Fairfield Inn & Suites 230 Cahaba Valley Road Pelham, AL 35124 205-987-9879	2 Queens King	\$199 \$199
Holiday Inn Express 260 Cahaba Valley Road Pelham, AL 35124 205-987-8888	2 Queens King King w/ sofa	\$229 \$239 \$249	Hampton Inn & Suites 232 Cahaba Valley Road Pelham, AL 35124 205-313-9500	2 Queens King	\$193 \$193

PATH INTL. REGION 5 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available May 20, 2022, through July 15, 2022. After July 15, 2022, registration will need to be completed on-site.

IF YOU ARE A PRESENTER OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER, DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH YOUR CODE!

Registration May 20, 2022 through July 15, 2022:

Full Conference \$145 members \$195 non-members

Registration on-site after July 15, 2022:

Full Conference \$175 members \$225 non-members

Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.

Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 15, 2022.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 30, 2022.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by July 30, 2022, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 8 hours of continuing education requirements.

COVID-19 Information:

Special Equestrians, Inc. and Indian Springs School follow all CDC and State of Alabama guidelines regarding COVID-19 virus protocols. If you are ill or have been exposed to the virus at the time of the conference, we ask that you not attend. Please see the refund policy.

AGENDA

All times are Central Daylight Time

Friday, July 29, 2022

1 – 1:45 p.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session A

2 – 3:30 p.m.

A1, The Impact of Equine Engagement on the Language Development of Individuals With Autism **DE**

All humankind is born with the ability to receive information and express information. We take what we see or hear and turn around and express our thoughts or feelings about those things to interact with others. There are those in this world who have been diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum and have challenges in those areas of receptive and expressive language. There are some who can receive information yet cannot express it and others who are able to express verbally yet have auditory processing challenges that prevent their receptive communication from being effective. Enter the partnership with an equine. The transparency of an individual on the Autism Spectrum coupled with the transparency of an equine partner allow for communication to occur that only the two can understand. We have all seen in the world of adaptive riding how an individual with autism and an equine partner can bond and deconstruct the triad of impairment so prevalent in those with autism. This triad consists of: deficits in social interaction, deficits in communication and repetitive patterns of behavior. Engagement between horse and rider begin to breakdown these barriers of communication with the guidance of a PATH Intl. CTRI and extra team members, such as a horse leader and side walker(s) should the rider require that support. By following cues of a rider on the Autism Spectrum, lessons can allow for opportunities of language development by modeling, encouraging, engaging and extending language and learning opportunities.

Kim Burnard is a special education teacher in California who is a language-speech & hearing specialist. She has been a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor since September 2015 and became so following in the footsteps of her sister Sally. She is passionate about giving individuals with special needs the tools to communicate with both equine and human partners.

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Break

Session B

3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

B1, The Dressage Training Scale CR Riding

Introduction of the dressage training scale and its application in the therapeutic riding setting and beyond.

Meris Gregis has a background in classical dressage and enjoys training horses from the very first ride up to the FEI levels. She has earned her USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, is a USEF "r" Dressage Judge, a US Pony Club graduate, a PATH Intl. CTRI and a USEF Bronze Level Para Dressage Coach. She has been featured in *The Chronicle of the Horse*, *USDF Connection*, *The Paint Horse Journal*, and *Warmbloods Today*. Meris has undergraduate degrees in mechanical engineering and exercise science focusing on biomechanics. She also earned an MS degree in biomedical engineering concentrating on kinematics. She is a consultant for multiple PATH Intl. centers and previously ran a small PATH Intl. program with her dressage horses.

5:15 – 7 p.m.

Dinner with Food Trucks (Self-Pay)

PATH Intl. Region 5 Meeting, State Meetings and Facilitated Networking

Saturday, July 30, 2022

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session C

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

C1, Polishing Up On Instruction CR Riding

Ready for a refresher after the pandemic slowdown or years of teaching? Join with colleagues for information on advancing your lesson instruction practices. Presentation includes an overview of current PATH Intl. standards related to instruction and updates to terminology related to equine-assisted services (EAS). Learning objectives include: identifying three techniques for modulating the environment to advance riders, identifying three advanced riding skills for inclusion in lessons, identifying three mandatory and three non-mandatory PATH Intl. standards relating to lesson instruction, identifying current terminology for three EAS categories and identifying three examples of "problematic terminology."

Mandy Branton is a Registered Nurse who holds PATH Intl. CTRI/Advanced, PATH Intl. ESMHL and CBEIP certifications.

C2, Equine Bodywork: Using the Masterson Method to Support the WHOLE Program CR All

The Masterson Method form of equine bodywork is gaining recognition among EAS programs to improve the welfare of horses that work in these settings by improving performance and well-being. Bringing bodywork to EAS programs not only benefits the horses (less burnout, happier, more balanced bodies, less tension and compensatory issues, etc.), but it benefits the participants, volunteers, instructors, staff and even donors on many levels, (trust, connection, etc.)! The Masterson Method® is a unique approach to equine bodywork where the horse actively participates in the release of tension in the body. In fact, if you do not "stay beneath the horse's brace" and allow the horse to participate, it does not work. This form of bodywork improves performance and enhances well-being, communication and your relationship with the horse.

Stephanie Wilkins has completed an extensive training and certification with the Masterson Method (Masterson Method Certified Practitioner-MMCP), along with another certification specific to Equine Assisted Services Programs (Masterson Method Equine Specialist-MMES), Stephanie is now bringing her combined certifications and knowledge to support equine-assisted services programs.

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch With the PATH Intl. Update and the Field Test Standards Hearing

SESSION D

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

D1, Fast, Fun, Fabulous Friend and Fundraisers CE

To thrive, every center needs new volunteers, donors, supporters, and participants, and needs increased awareness in the community. The following three friend and fundraisers—a concert, a yard sale extravaganza and a pasture putt-putt golf event—will do just that. This session will teach participants to adapt the events to programs of any size, show how the events can generate newfound enthusiasm among existing volunteer bases, and how the events will expose each center to hundreds of people who are not familiar with all your center does.

Lisa Wysocky is an award-winning and best-selling author, podcaster and motivational speaker. She presents equine-based clinics across the country and is the executive director of the PATH Intl. Center Colby's Army in Ashland City, Tennessee.

D2, Becoming Your Horse's True Leader CE

Training volunteers to work with horses should be more than simply teaching them the mechanics. Teaching horse handlers how horses relate to and communicate with one another can help them better understand how to be a true leader for their equine partner. This presentation will help volunteer coordinators, equine managers, and instructors learn how to develop a training program for horse handlers that incorporates herd dynamics for more effective leadership and communication between equines and volunteers. Attendees will learn how different personality traits of horse handlers make them effective in working with different horse types. Using an understanding of herd hierarchy, volunteers can be taught the best ways to use body language, confidence and demeanor to address common equine behaviors that may arise during a lesson.

Madison Pozzo is a PATH Intl. CTRI and assistant director at Special Equestrians. Maddie has been a PATH Intl. certified instructor and the volunteer coordinator for Special Equestrians since 2014. She has been riding since 1994 and has volunteered with PATH Intl. centers in Illinois, Georgia and Alabama since 2004.

Kelsey Thabes is a PATH Intl. CTRI and equine manager at Special Equestrians. Kelsey has been a PATH Intl. certified instructor since 2016. She has been riding since 2003 and has volunteered with PATH Intl. centers in Florida, Georgia and Alabama since 2012.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Break**

SESSION E

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

E1, Teaching Strategies for Riders With Scoliosis DE

This presentation will explore different teaching strategies for riders with scoliosis. Learning objectives include: defining scoliosis and noting how it might affect the riding position, identifying safety concerns regarding riding and scoliosis, identifying two or more teaching strategies for riders with scoliosis, and recognizing when to collaborate with a therapist.

Mary Beth Vaughn is from Huntsville, AL. She has worked at The Red Barn since 2018. In 2019 she became a PATH Intl. certified instructor. She has loved horses all her life and has over 15 years' experience training and showing in dressage, hunters and eventing. Mary Beth is passionate about sharing her love of horses with others and sharing her knowledge with her students at The Red Barn.

3:45 – 4 p.m. **Break**

SESSION F

4 – 5 p.m.

F1, Overview of the PATH Intl. CTRI Application Process CE

This presentation will cover all aspects of the PATH Intl. CTRI application process. It will include the five parts of the application form, resources and helpful tips provided by PATH Intl., and the general requirements and technical specifications for the video.

Susan Lutz is a PATH Intl. Certified Advanced Instructor, CTRI and an ESMHL. She has served in the EAS industry for over 25 years in multiple center positions and volunteered in multiple roles in the PATH Intl. organization. Susan currently serves as a lead assessor for the PATH Intl. CTRI Riding Instruction and Communication of Riding Skills Video.

F2, Making Equine Care Accessible to Everyone CR All

This session will break down basic horse first aid so that anyone can understand what to do in an equine emergency.

Sarah Lloyd has been an Instructor for 10 years and is a PATH Intl. Certified Advanced Instructor, CTRI and ESMHL. She is also a PATH Intl. mentor and is the PATH Intl. Georgia state representative. She went to St. Andrews University and received her degree in therapeutic horsemanship.

5 – 7 p.m. **Dinner & the PATH Intl. Region 5 Awards Ceremony**

We look forward to seeing you soon in Alabama!