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NARHA Announces New Certification

Denver— It is with great enthusiasm that the NARHA Equine Specialist Certification Subcommittee and the NARHA staff announce the Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification. Equine-Facilitated Learning and Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy are rapidly growing fields, and this certification is meant to improve the experience for all involved. A lot of hard work has been done by the Equine Specialist Certification Subcommittee to respond to the need of the growing mental health field within NARHA.

The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification is meant to certify an individual as the horse handler in any un-mounted mental health or learning session. If the session is mounted, a NARHA Certified Instructor will continue to supervise the activity.

[Please visit the NARHA website for a copy of the certification booklet and complete details on the requirements of the certification.](#)

The pilot for the first horsemanship skills test will be held in Florida in February in conjunction with the NARHA Equine Specialist workshop, both of which are required to gain certification. If you are interested in attending the pilot, please contact the NARHA office or [click here to download the application](#).

Many of our NARHA members are already preparing for their new certification and have long awaited the release of this certification. A big thank you to all for your patience and excitement!

Contact [Tara McChesney](#), (800) 369-RIDE (7433) with questions regarding the Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification or the workshop.

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About NARHA:

NARHA, formerly North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, was formed in 1969 to promote equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At over 700 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine



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of equine assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work, or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 24,000 volunteers, 2000 instructors, 5,700 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at NARHA centers.