



Region 9 Conference

June 6-8, 2025

**Hosted by:
Ride for Joy
Caldwell, Idaho**



- Joy in COMMUNITY
- Joy in SHARED LEARNING
- Joy in PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

PATH Intl. REGION 9 CONFERENCE June 6-8, 2025

PATH Intl. Region 9 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Idaho. Your registration fee includes Friday dinner, light morning refreshments and lunch on Saturday and light morning refreshments on Sunday.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Ride for Joy

28379 El Paso Road
Caldwell, ID 83607

LODGING OPTIONS

All within 15 minutes of Ride for Joy.

Best Western Plus Caldwell Inn & Suites

908 Specht Ave, Caldwell, ID 83605
(208) 454-7225, [Website](#)

La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Caldwell

901 Specht Ave, Caldwell, ID 83605
(208) 614-0256, [Website](#)

Caldwell Campground & RV Park

21830 Town Cir #34, Caldwell, ID 83607
(208) 454-0279, [Website](#)

PATH INTL. REGION 9 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available March 28, 2025, through May 23, 2025. After May 23, 2025, registration will need to be completed on-site.

IF YOU ARE A PRESENTER OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER, REMEMBER TO REGISTER WITH YOUR CODE!

Registration March 28, 2025, through May 23, 2025:

Full Conference \$140 members \$200 non-members

Registration on-site after May 23, 2025:

Full Conference \$190 members \$250 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 **May 23, 2025.**

Deadline for 50% Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **June 8, 2025.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by June 8, 2025, will not receive a refund.

Silent Auction:

Please bring an item to add to the PATH Intl. Region 9 silent auction. Auction funds will go to the PATH Intl. Disaster Relief Fund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 10 hours of continuing education requirements.

AGENDA

All times are Mountain

Friday, June 6, 2025

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Registration & Welcome

Silent Auction Opens

5 – 5:30 p.m.

Ride for Joy Facility Tour

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner and Facilitated Networking

Saturday, June 7, 2025

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration & Light Refreshments

Session A

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

A1, Psychotherapy Incorporating Equines: Healing with the Herd CE

Psychotherapy incorporating equines has been around for decades. Learn what it is, how it works and why it works. This session will explore the various ways in which horses help individuals with mental health struggles heal. Attendees will have the opportunity to observe and discuss psychotherapy incorporating equines sessions and learn how mental health and trauma-informed care are prioritized and addressed through treatment.

***Erika Moe, LCPC** initially began her animal-assisted therapy journey with her beloved dogs Ace and Oliver. As she continued to learn and explore the human-animal connection, she was introduced to psychotherapy incorporating equines. Through her years of study, Erika developed an appreciation for the unique, beautiful and valuable presence horses bring to the therapeutic relationship and the healing process. Erika holds a BA in elementary education from the University of Northern Colorado and an MS in clinical counseling from Northwest Nazarene University. She is a registered play therapy supervisor and certified with EAGALA.*

***Sauna Robinson, LMSW** is EAGALA certified and has worked for the Idaho Youth Ranch for nearly three years. She has received formal training in therapy incorporating equines, motivational interviewing, dialectical behavioral therapy, and narrative therapy. She also has education in cognitive behavioral therapy, structural*

family therapy, solution-focused therapy, attachment therapy, and acceptance and commitment therapy which she implements into her sessions. Shauna holds a bachelor's and master's degree in social work and has experience working with diverse populations. She is a member of EAGALA and the National Association of Social Workers. In her free time, she enjoys time with family, friends, three horses and her two Shih Tzus Bono and Maggie. She particularly loves outdoor activities that connect her with nature, playing pickleball, and line dancing.

A2, Easy Online Marketing Anyone Can Do CE

The Golden Arches, LiMu the Emu, Clydesdales and Dalmatians, a Swoosh - you can likely identify each company and the colors or tagline associated with each. Corporations know that branding and marketing are essential and many nonprofits have discovered the same principles apply when seeking to increase awareness in their community to increase the number of donors or volunteers. Learn the importance of developing an online presence in search engines and social media. Walk away with practical tools that will help even those with a small staff create an online marketing plan that actually can be accomplished in just a few hours a month.

Julie Jones has a background and education in nonprofit management that gives her a different perspective on what it takes to run a successful, sustainable center and looks forward to sharing knowledge with others throughout the EAS industry. After raising five amazing adults, God directed Julie to move to a little area of Oklahoma called Shamrock. He promised her a blessing if she went and the blessings just continued to roll in. One of the best things to come into her Oklahoma life during the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown was an introduction to EAS. She has fallen in love with the "business" of offering healing and empowerment through horsemanship. When she isn't helping nonprofits plan for their future, she serves as a PATH Intl. Region 8 Ambassador, works on improving her own horsemanship skills, goes on "Grandma Dates" with her ten grandchildren and builds relationships with the people of Shamrock.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break

Session B

9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

B1, Optimizing Rider Independence by Building Postural Control CR Riding

Building a strong foundation of postural control will enable riders to progress toward their highest level of independence both on and off the horse. This session will discuss how to address posture and alignment, have opportunities for developing a critical eye and provide specific tools to work toward improvement.

Lindsey Jameson has been working in the EAS industry for twenty years and is passionate about enriching the lives of all through working with horses. She is a PATH Intl. Advanced TRI, CTRI, site visitor, ESMHL and Mentor, and holds a graduate certificate from Denver University in animals and human health. She currently owns and operates Pure Balance Horsemanship, a program that empowers people of all abilities by connecting them with horses. She teaches horsemanship, riding and vaulting, and facilitates summer camps for kids. She also teaches skiing and mindful awareness in the classroom and spends the rest of her time playing outdoors with her husband and two daughters.

B2, Select the Tech that Supports Your Mission CE

Understanding or clarifying your business processes is the first step to a solid technology plan. The tools you use should support your business processes, not dictate them. Whether looking for new tools or wanting to understand how to better use current ones, this session is for you! In this session, attendees will evaluate examples of common software for fundraising, accounting, program management, volunteer management and outreach and understand what business processes each tool can support. A rubric will be provided to help score and compare software in categories including ease-of-use, ability to adapt as the organization grows and changes, working well with other tools and cost. Leave this session with a planning sheet and the understanding to continue developing a robust technology plan.

Teri Walker is the founder and CEO of CommonTeri Services. In 2014, Teri combined her experience in technology with her experience in nonprofit management to found CommonTeri Services to help nonprofits who use Salesforce. She and her team care for people by using systems and data, with a passion for serving nonprofits who deliver direct services like equine-assisted services. Teri has 17 years of experience in designing Salesforce solutions for nonprofits and has multiple certifications in Salesforce and Agile project management.

11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Lunch with the PATH Intl. Update **1 CE**, Field Test Standards Update, Region 9 Meeting, and Awards Ceremony

Initial afternoon sessions, choose 1 session in both C & D OR session E.

Session C

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

C1, Developing a Collaborative Relationship Between the Therapist and PATH Intl. CTRI® CE

A therapist using EAS often may not have the depth of practical knowledge regarding equine biomechanics, movement, and handling as their equine specialist (ES) counterparts. Likewise, most PATH Intl. CTRI®'s who assist as the ES may not have the knowledge regarding human medical issues, human anatomy, and treatment strategies that therapists have. In addition, most professionals in these fields work individually with their own participants/patients. This can lead to misunderstandings, improper expectations, and frayed communications that can render the therapy session less effective than it could be. This session will discuss strategies for building strong collaborative teams, effective communication, fostering respect and gratitude for the human and equine team, and creating a seamless flow towards the shared goal. A bonus is the opportunity to develop friendships that are solid gold. By acknowledging and combining the distinct but complementary expertise between a therapist and PATH Intl. CTRI®, the best possible outcomes will be achieved.

Leslie Hayden has been practicing as a pediatric physical therapist for over 36 years. She has had the privilege of expanding her practice to include the use of equine movement for the past seven years. She loves working with a team and believes the best outcomes for patients are achieved in this model. When not working with kids, she loves the outdoors, baking and quilting.

Sally Conrad has been a PATH Intl. CTRI® since 2017, working full time as lead instructor at Two Bear Therapeutic Riding Center in Whitefish, MT. A lifelong horsewoman and a student of natural horsemanship, she managed a large breeding farm where she observed domestic herds and their behaviors, gentled and started young horses and worked with all aspects of horse care. She enjoys the outdoors, gardening and music, and has taught dance and guitar for many years.

C2, Saddle Fitting Our Equines CR Riding

This session will review the seven points of correct saddle fitting with English and Western saddles. In riding, it is very important that the saddle is balanced and fits the horse correctly. Ill-fitted saddles can cause damage to a horse's back. Once the saddle fits correctly it will help the rider's position and keep the equine comfortable, happy, and performing at their best. This presentation will include hands-on and small group activities. **This session is limited to 10 attendees and is offered multiple times.**

Alyson Green is an authorized English saddle fitter for Trilogy Performance Saddlery. She has been doing saddle fitting and assessments since December of 2017, working on all types of English and Western saddles. Based in Boise, Idaho, she covers the territory of Idaho and Utah.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

Session D

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

D1, Sensory Trail/Sensory Integration in the Arena DE

This session will offer a review of the sensory systems and what effects therapeutic riding and a sensory trail have on each. It will have sensory trail information and how to include sensory integration into your arena lessons. Sensory stations and activities are a great way to engage riders, build strength, coordination, practice team building, promote learning and have fun. They are also a great tool for building equine trust and desensitization. Learn the creation process of RFJ's Sensory Trail including budget, building and coordinating with volunteers. Discuss some ideas for developing sensory integration in the arena and working with community partners.

Sandy James Sherman has been a PATH Intl. CTRI® for over 20 years at three different adaptive riding programs. She has been instructing at Ride for Joy for 11 years and is the lead instructor. She rode in Pony Club for over five years and enjoys jumping and dressage. Her degree is in recreational therapy, and she has worked in psychiatric and physical rehabilitation facilities. Sandy designed and created the RFJ Sensory Trail with the help of volunteers over the past three years for all RFJ adaptive riding and veteran participants.

Sara Ash became a PATH Intl. CTRI® in 2023 and has volunteered at many different adaptive riding programs over the past 25+ years, including Free Rein in Spokane, WA, and Ride for Joy. She achieved her USPC rating of H-A and competed in eventing in the US and overseas. In December 2024, she obtained her master's in occupational therapy from Eastern Washington University.

D2, Saddle Fitting Our Equines CR Riding

Repeat of C2. This session is limited to 10 attendees and is offered multiple times.

Session E

2:15 – 4:30 p.m.

E1, The Community Resiliency Model and EAS Part 1 DE

The Community Resiliency Model is a skills-based, stabilization program designed to reset the natural balance of the nervous system. "CRM's goal is to help create 'trauma-informed' and 'resiliency-focused' communities that share a common understanding of the impact of trauma and chronic stress on the nervous system, and how resiliency can be restored or increased using this skills-based approach" Learn how CRM skills have been utilized in Sun Valley Steadfast, an annual retreat for women survivors of sexual abuse. In part two of this session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn and practice the skills and discuss how these skills can be implemented in both mounted and unmounted sessions.

Mimi Crocker is a life-long horse person, PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL, EAGALA certified and is the owner of the BARN, an all-abilities riding and horsemanship program in Bellevue, Idaho. She is passionate about connecting people of all ages and abilities with horses. When not working with horses, she enjoys hiking and skiing in the beautiful Wood River Valley.

Lindsey Jameson see bio in session B1.

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Break

Session F

4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

F1, Multiple Sclerosis: Programming Considerations and Tips DE

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neuro-autoimmune disease that affects the nervous system through the destruction of central nervous system myelin. It produces a wide-ranging array of deficits including difficulty walking, poor balance, weakness and fatigue. Symptoms of MS including spasticity, decreased coordination, and weakness can be improved with EAS. Some symptoms like fatigue, fatigable weakness and heat sensitivity need to be adapted to. Understand the basic pathophysiology of MS, recognize the varying presentation of this disease and take away tips to manage some of these symptoms to best facilitate goals.

Ali Lubbers, PT, DPT, has been a physical therapist for eleven years, working in Newport, OR, and Boise, ID. She graduated with a BA in biology and a DPT in physical therapy from the University of Montana. Ali, who also has MS, has worked with a wide range of patients in rural and urban areas from orthopedics to neurology to geriatrics, including those living with MS.

F2, Support Participant Growth and Development with Equine-Assisted Learning CE

Equine-assisted learning (EAL) can be an effective way to support targeted learning and development, and in 2023, PATH Intl. launched a new EAL certificate program. This session will present data from a 2024 study that gathered information on EAL offered by PATH Intl. centers. It will provide an overview of EAL, including a snapshot of relevant research in this field, as well as details about how PATH Intl. centers are successfully navigating the facilitation and administration of EAL.

Gretchen Schulz is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and the executive director at Ride for Joy, a PATH Intl. PAC in Caldwell, Idaho. She has over a decade of experience working as an educator in public schools and universities, as well as developing and facilitating professional development for teachers. She is a certified teacher and holds an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction.

F3, Saddle Fitting Our Equines CR Riding

Repeat of C2. This session is limited to 10 attendees and is offered multiple times.

6 p.m.

Silent Auction Closes

6:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own or optional 'No Host' Group Dinner in Caldwell

Sunday, June 8, 2025

8 – 8:30 a.m.

Light Refreshments

Session G

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

G1, Ensuring Center Stability During Change CE

No matter how large or small, how young or how old, it is definite that those currently in center leadership will not be there indefinitely. Founders and others in charge of organizations are often so focused on the positive impact they want to make that they forget this simple truth. Whether the departure is planned or abrupt, a cause for celebration or a tragic circumstance, having a plan for what comes next will allow the board and staff to move forward with minimal disruption to participants and guarantee compliance with nonprofit laws and regulations.

Julie Jones see bio in session A2.

G2, Words Matter DE

The World Health Organization estimates there are over 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. This corresponds to about 15% of the world's population. Disabilities are often misunderstood and stigmatized through the use of language. As members of the EAS industry, it is vital to use and promote appropriate and inclusive language. This presentation will cover disability models, types of disability language, ableism, the harm that can be caused by using inappropriate language and how to be an advocate and ally for inclusive language and terminology.

Hilary Groh, CTRS is the Program Director at NorthWest Therapeutic Riding Center, a PATH Intl. PAC in Bellingham, WA. Hilary has a BA in recreation from Western Washington University and is a PATH Intl. Advanced TRI, CTRL and Mentor.

9:30 – 9:45 p.m.

Break

Session H

9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

H1, Build Online Forms Using Salesforce CE

This session will demonstrate how to use an existing Salesforce database system to build an online volunteer application. This session can be hands on and attendees can use their laptop to build along with the presenter. Takeaways will include step-by-step instructions to replicate what was demonstrated both written and video formats, an installable template to save some time and a free follow-up office hours session to get help after the session.

Teri Walker see bio in session B2.

H2, The Community Resiliency Model and EAS Part 2 DE

Continuation of E1.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Idaho!