



Region 8/LSTEN Conference



August 1-3, 2025

Pre-Conference July 30 - 31, 2025

**Produced by PATH Intl. Region 8
in Partnership with and Sponsored By
Lone Star Therapeutic Equestrian Network**

**Hosted by:
Equestrian Zone
Dardanelle, Arkansas**

PATH Intl. Region 8 and LSTEN welcome you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Arkansas. Your registration fee includes lunch on both pre-conference days, Friday, and Saturday and Dinner on Friday.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday a.m. & Sunday

Equestrian Zone

19769 Hwy 154 West
Dardanelle, AR 72834

Friday p.m., Saturday

Arkansas Tech University

215 West O Street
Russellville, AR 72801

LODGING OPTIONS

Russellville and Dardanelle have many lodging options to choose from, but most are small with limited ADA availability. We have included links to the ones we recommend. There is no conference price, so we encourage you to use your preferred booking site or contact the lodging provider directly.

[Comfort Inn and Suites](#)

[La Quinta Inn & Suites](#)

[Hampton Inn](#)

[Holiday Inn Express](#)

[Fairfield by Marriott](#)

[Best Western](#)

The [LSTEN Website](#) has more details about these hotels.

[All Dardanelle Lodging Options](#)

PATH INTL. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available May 23, 2025, through July 18, 2025. After July 18, 2025, registration will need to be completed on-site. This conference is in-person only. There is no single day registration.

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

Conference Registration May 23, 2025, through July 18, 2025:

Full Conference \$175 members \$235 non-members \$155 PATH Intl. Higher Ed Faculty/Students

Conference Registration on-site after July 18, 2025:

Full Conference \$225 members \$285 non-members \$205 PATH Intl. Higher Ed Faculty/Students

Preconference Registration May 23, 2025, through July 5, 2025

~~Equi-First Aid July 30, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. — \$184 Canceled!~~

~~Pre-register for this in-person event through the Facebook event [HERE](#), registration includes lunch and a manual. If less than 15 people register by this date, this course may be cancelled, and refunds issued.~~

The Spur Model Training & Certification July 30-31, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$563.75

Must pre-register [HERE](#), registration includes lunch both days and a manual.

PATH Intl. Standards Course July 31, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$65 members \$95 non-members**

***Registration includes lunch. Bring your own manual. Course confirmed and registration remains open until July 18. Registration on-site is not available.*

Preconference Refunds:

The SPUR Model and Equi-First Aid each have their own cancellation policies. Please contact them for information related to refunds.

PATH Intl. Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the course or conference is canceled. Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org

PATH Intl. Standards Course

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 5, 2025.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 25, 2025.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by July 25, 2025, will not receive a refund.

PATH Intl. Region 8 LSTEN Conference

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 18, 2025.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 3, 2025.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by August 3, 2025, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 16 hours of continuing education requirements. The pre-conference satisfies up to 12 hours of continuing education requirements.

PRECONFERENCE AGENDA

All times are central.

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Equestrian Zone

8 – 8:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Registration & Welcome

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

P1, The Spur Model Part 1 CE

The SPUR Model is an equine-facilitated social intelligence approach to relationship building. It includes two days of training made up of instructions, demonstrations, discussions, a professional manual, and certification. Learn to build positive relationships through experiential activities with horses. Plan to dress appropriately for outdoor activities in an arena.

Johnny Clark LMSW is a 1977 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a BS in human environmental science, interior design and architecture. He received his master's degree from Kansas University in social work in 1993. He is one of the certified charter members in the American Association for Christian Counselors as well as a certified conciliator. He received the highest level of certification in EAGALA. He is the blessed husband of Karen Clark and father to three biological children. He is known as dad to many more kids he and his wife have served and loved over the years and he has the joy of being "Cowpa" to ten grandchildren. He and his wife make their home in Glencoe, Oklahoma on their 40-acre Rockin' J48 Ranch.

~~P2, Equi-First Aid CR All~~ CANCELLED!

12 – 1 p.m. **Lunch Provided**

1 – 4:30 p.m.

P1, The Spur Model Part 1 continued CE

Thursday, July 31, 2025

Equestrian Zone

8 – 8:30 a.m. **Pre-Conference Registration & Welcome**

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

P3, The Spur Model Part 2 CE

Continuation of session P1.

P4, PATH Intl. Standards Course Part 1 CE

Please bring the most current PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation Manual with you – it is not provided.

Joan Cutler is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI, ESMHL, and Level 1 Driving Instructor. She first certified as an instructor in 2001 and spent time at Children's TherAplay in Carmel, IN before returning to Texas and joining the staff at ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids. Joan held several positions at ROCK from 2003-2010 when she and her husband Greg moved to Texarkana and Joan worked at Runnin' WJ Ranch. Joan then returned to Equest in 2013 and returned to ROCK in July 2023. Joan is a PATH Intl. accreditation site visitor and has served on several committees including the PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes® task force and committee. Joan enjoys spending time outdoors and cooking with her husband Greg.

12 – 1 p.m. **Lunch Provided**

1 – 4:30 p.m.

P3, The Spur Model Part 2 continued CE

P4, PATH Intl. Standards Course Part 2 CE

Friday, August 1, 2025

Equestrian Zone a.m.

7 – 8 a.m. **Registration & Welcome & Coffee**

Session A

8 – 9 a.m.

A1, Theory of the Spur Model CE

Learn about The Spur Model, an equine-assisted service program. It utilizes social intelligence theory concepts, and relationship building activities in a game format to engage both the horse and participant towards discovery and development in self-perception, self-behavior and social connection.

Johnny Clark LMSW see bio in session P1.

A2, Equine First Aid CR All

Equine Health & Emergency First Aid, Advanced, Wilderness & Back Country and Fundamentals. Safe Trailering Practices, Disaster Planning & Emergency Preparedness, Livestock Handling and Safety for First Responders,

TBD

A3, Recognizing the Signs of Cognitive Decline DE

Learn typical age-related memory, thinking or behavior changes, and recognize common warning signs of Alzheimer's and dementia. This session will discuss tips for approaching someone about memory concerns, explain the importance of early detection, share the benefits of diagnosis, and name the resources available through the Alzheimer's Association.

Jill Thompson serves as the director of programs for the Alzheimer's Association Arkansas Chapter and oversees community educators and support group volunteers who provide vital education and support throughout the Arkansas community. Prior to her role at the Alzheimer's Association, Jill worked for a non-profit in Houston, TX, providing dementia care consultation and community education throughout the Houston area. Jill is also a physical therapist and worked with the geriatric population for over 20 years. Jill has a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College and a master's degree in physical therapy from the University of Central Arkansas.

9 – 9:10 a.m.

Break

Session B

9:10 – 10:10 a.m.

B1, Maintaining Equine Physical Condition and Quality Behavior CR All

Keeping a horse in quality physical condition is important in any discipline. As horses age and our expectations for them decrease their muscle also decreases. Maintaining quality body conditioning is important for a horse in any aspect and actively maintaining physical condition often also aids in maintaining quality behavior.

Linda Bailey is a third-generation horse trainer who currently works full time as a horse trainer, riding lesson instructor and an equine performance specialist. She has been doing this professionally for 10+ years and her greatest goal is to improve equine quality of life by improving their skills and behavior.

B2, Buckin' Roan Equine Sports Massage CR All

The sole purpose of equine massage is to better help your equine athlete feel and perform their best, eliminate pain, and eliminate behavior issues due to pain. Join this session and learn about equine massage.

Sara Libby is the owner of Buckin' Roan Equine Sports Massage Therapy. She has been certified in equine massage for four years, has been involved with horses her entire life and has trained for most of it. Sara enjoys helping horses and their owners with any issues that they may have, whether that be pain or behavior related.

B3, Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors DE

As Alzheimer's or another form of dementia progresses, the person living with dementia will have memory, thinking, and behavior changes that will impact their ability to communicate which may in turn affect their behavioral responses to a situation. In this education session from the Alzheimer's Association, learn how dementia can cause changes in a person's behavior and communication, possible triggers for dementia-related behaviors, and the 4-step approach for managing behaviors.

Jill Thompson see bio in session A3.

B4, Smart Spending for Nonprofits CE

Learn how to maximize a budget through practical strategies, identify hidden and common discounts, navigate various product rebates, and leverage in-kind donations. This session also fosters idea sharing among attendees, allowing learning from real-world experiences. Find out how to implement cost-saving techniques for everyday operations, build strong relationships with vendors to secure ongoing discounts and favorable terms, and develop a plan for strategically utilizing in-kind contributions to enhance an organization's resources.

Stephanie Powell is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL and a Special Olympics equestrian coach. She has been the executive director at H.E.L.P. in Pflugerville, TX since 2014, bringing a lifelong passion for horses and helping others to her work. Her teaching emphasizes horsemanship and the horse-rider connection. In her free time, she enjoys Texas beaches, car shows and family.

10:10 – 10:20 a.m.

Break

Session C

10:20 a.m. – 11:20 p.m.

C1, Physical Therapy Incorporating Equines CE

Physical therapy incorporating equines is an innovative rehabilitation approach that utilizes the movement and interaction with horses to improve physical, neurological and emotional well-being. This presentation explores the therapeutic benefits of physical therapy incorporating equines, particularly for individuals with mobility challenges, neurological disorders and musculoskeletal conditions. Key topics include the biomechanics of equine movement and its impact on core strength, balance, coordination and motor function. A live demonstration will showcase a PT session, highlighting techniques used by therapists to engage patients in exercises that promote flexibility, stability and muscle engagement. Attendees will gain insights into the science behind physical therapy incorporating equines and witness firsthand how equine movement facilitates neuromuscular re-education and postural control.

Shandy Toland is a licensed physical therapist who earned her master's degree in physical therapy from the University of Central Arkansas and has practiced in the field of pediatric physical therapy since 2000. She is currently the owner of Ability Focus Therapy Services, and contracts with the Russellville School District and Thrive Pediatric Therapy. She has been providing physical therapy incorporating equines with Equestrian Zone since 2008.

C2, Equine Bodywork and Enhancing Performance, Comfort and Connection in EAS Horses CR All

This session explores how equine bodywork can enhance the health, comfort and performance of equines in equine-assisted services. Horses in EAS often face unique physical and emotional demands, leading to tension, stiffness or stress that can affect their ability to perform and connect with participants. Attendees will learn how bodywork techniques such as massage therapy, craniosacral therapy and kinesiology taping can be incorporated into equine care routines to promote well-being and improve outcomes for both horses and participants. Learning objectives include identifying common areas of tension or discomfort in EAS horses and understanding their impact on movement and behavior, understanding the science behind bodywork's effects on equine biomechanics, circulation and relaxation, and gaining practical strategies for integrating bodywork into the daily care of EAS horses to reduce the risk of injury and extend their working careers.

Dr. Angelique Barbara (she/her) is a highly experienced educator and practitioner in holistic animal wellness, specializing in equine bodywork. With a strong background in chiropractic, massage therapy, craniosacral therapy, kinesiology taping and other modalities, Dr. Barbara has dedicated her career to promoting the health and well-being of equines. She has developed comprehensive training programs for equine professionals and caregivers, emphasizing techniques that enhance comfort, performance and longevity in equines, particularly those in EAS. Dr. Barbara is passionate about empowering others to support the unique needs of EAS horses, fostering stronger horse-handler partnerships and improved outcomes for participants.

C3, Supporting Independence in Individuals with Cognitive Decline DE

Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia affect independence with daily activities and therapeutic activities can have a positive impact on the lives of those living with dementia. This session will explore and discuss the changes in independence that happen and how this may impact safety. Learn activities in EAS programs that can benefit individuals living with dementia, the four steps for helping with activities and tips to help make activities meaningful.

Jill Thompson see bio in session A3.

C4, Impact of a Christ-Centered Program CE

Attendees will learn more about establishing a Christ-centered EAS program and the profound impact it has had at Savannah Station. Learn the program's operations, with a focus on how prayer is integrated, and the significant difference this has made in the approach and outcomes. Discover the measurable impact of Christ-centered programming across all levels, from the board of directors to the riders and volunteers and identify and explain the core components essential to operating as a Christ-centered EAS program.

Andi Holland has worked in nonprofit management for over 34 years. She became a Therapeutic Riding Instructor in 2015 and the Executive Director of Savannah Station Therapeutic Riding Program in the Fall of 2017. Her nonprofit background is helping guide Savannah Station through an exciting time of advancement as they fulfill their mission of "Offering Hope and Healing to people with special needs through the amazing power of the Horse." Andi believes it is a privilege to lead an organization that utilizes the amazing gifts of the horse to impact the lives of all who encounter them.

12:20 – 1 p.m.

Travel time to Arkansas Tech University – Chambers Cafeteria

12 – 1 p.m.

Lunch in Chambers Cafeteria

Make sure you have your name tag to scan the QR code!

Doc Bryant Lecture Hall (Doc Bryant Student Center)

1:30 – 3:10 p.m.

LSTEN Annual Mtng., PATH Intl. Update 1 CE & Field Test Standards Update

3:10 – 3:20 p.m.

Break

3:20 – 4:20 p.m.

From Confusion to Clarity: Benefits of Using Optimal Terminology CE

When with horses, we strive to be self-aware, consistent, congruent, accurate, respectful and kind. If we maintain these qualities around horses, why is it such a challenge to also embody those qualities when talking about them and the wonderful work that can be accomplished with them? It is still a struggle, as is evidenced within published research, digital media, or marketing materials with inconsistencies and inaccuracies in our

language. It's not surprising that the public remains confused. Words matter. This session is facilitated by Kathy Alm, co-author of the paper "Optimal Terminology for Services that Incorporate Horses to Benefit People" (Wood et al, 2021) and will explore and work on more accessible and inviting ways to talk about what we do while using terminology that is accurate and consistent. Discover it can be almost as fun and engaging as being with horses!

Kathy Alm began her service as chief executive officer of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) in August 2014. For the previous 16 years she served as executive director of Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, WA. She grew the previous grassroots organization from a \$280,000 annual operating budget to a professional \$2.1 million organization. Kathy served as the PATH Intl. board president in the 2010-2012 term, first joining the board of trustees in 2005. She has facilitated numerous workshops and presentations on board, staff, fundraising and strategic planning and enjoys the opportunity to share her experience as well as learn from others. Her dedication to the field of EAS spans over 19 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first EAS center.

4:20 – 4:40 p.m.

PATH Intl. Region 8 Awards Ceremony

4:40 – 5:30 p.m.

Keynote: Heartache to Healing with Horses CE

A true story of overcoming significant trauma with the healing power of horses.

Heather Taylor is a wife, mother, motivational speaker, writer, advocate, educator and musician. She has traveled throughout the world educating and empowering others. She holds a Master of Arts degree in professional counseling and is currently obtaining her MS degree in leadership at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She has overcome the effects of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and is now fighting a rarely diagnosed condition called dysautonomia and POTS. She believes God has a perfect plan for all our lives and does not view these life events as obstacles but as "Perfect Opportunities To Shine."

5:30 – 7 p.m.

Dinner in Chambers Cafeteria

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Arkansas Tech University – Rothwell Hall

7:30 – 8 a.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session D

8 – 9 a.m.

D1, Autism Spectrum Disorder DE

This presentation will provide an overview of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including its definition, diagnostic criteria, common characteristics, and interventions. Additionally, learn the benefits of EAS and important precautions, contraindications and best practices for therapeutic/adaptive riding instructors.

Shannon Middlleton is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, HPCS, and PATH Intl. CTRI®. With 19 years of experience in EAS, she specializes in integrating equine movement into speech pathology services at ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids in Georgetown, Texas. Additionally, she serves as the clinical director of speech-language pathology at All Care Therapies of Georgetown. Shannon has also contributed to the field as a dedicated volunteer in various roles with PATH Intl. and the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA).

D2, Holistic Equine Nutrition: Supporting Health from the Inside Out CE

Explore the foundations of holistic equine nutrition and how diet directly impacts a horse's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. This session will cover whole food approaches, common nutrient imbalances, gut health support, and natural ways to enhance performance and quality of life—especially for therapy horses.

Dr. Angelique Barbara see bio in session C2.

D3, Outside the Box Fund Raising CE

Organizing fund-raising auctions, dinners, and galas is common. A tremendous amount of work and, often, an enormous amount of expense goes into the execution of those events. After attending a spectacular event that demonstrated a less spectacular net income, the Buffalo Run Adventure Challenge was born! In four years, the Buffalo Run brought in \$1.4 million to benefit Camp Able and expenses remain at less than 3.8%. That is an exceptional ROI that has been a tremendous financial contributor to Camp Able and it has served as an amazing advocacy group for the special needs community in Buffalo Gap. Learn how it rewired an approach fund raising events and clarified the importance of putting mission ahead of all else and making that a primary sales tool.

Cody Cox is the executive director of Camp Able in Buffalo Gap, Texas. He and a group of friends started the Buffalo Run Adventure Challenge to raise money to build a covered arena at Camp Able. Cody worked in the transportation industry prior to the first Buffalo Run. EAS and the special needs community were definitely not on life's bingo card. After the unexpected success of this unique fund raiser, the trajectory of his family was changed forever!

9 – 9:10 a.m.

Break

Session E

9:10 – 10:10 a.m.

E1, Why Can't Humans Communicate as Clearly as Horses? CE

This session will share best practices and lessons learned on effective communications with peers, staff, board, volunteers and others. It will touch on in person, phone, text, email, chat, group distributions and broadcast messaging, and discuss the magic of influencing and how to get folks to think it was their idea.

John D'Andrea has 35+ years' experience in aerospace, heavy equipment/agriculture, high tech industry doing operations, product development, manufacturing, supply chain and business process design. For the last 25 years he has also worked in the non-profit space as a volunteer, board member and now executive director of a therapeutic horseback riding center.

E2, Effects of Simulated Equine Motion Therapy for Gait and Balance in the Elderly DE

The effectiveness of a realistic, mechanical, horse-riding motion simulator was investigated for reducing the fall risk among the aging population. The MiraColt (www.chariotinnovations.com) is a medical-grade device facilitating indoor, convenient access to realistic, natural horse-riding motion. It can improve accommodation and safety, reduce cost and needed human-power, and increase opportunity for more frequent dosage. An IRB-approved study was conducted with independent living residents (> 60 years old) at The Delaney at Lake Waco. Learn about the encouraging results of this study in treating elderly clients with balance and gait challenges.

Dr. Brian Garner is an associate professor in mechanical engineering at Baylor University. His background includes experimental and computer modeling methods in biomechanics, the study of forces and motions in living things. In 2014 he was awarded a patent for the technology behind the mechanical horse-riding simulator MiraColt. He has conducted numerous research studies involving MiraColt, including with children with autism, and with the elderly. Current research is seeking to investigate effects of MiraColt riding for those with Parkinson's disease.

E3, The Value of Competition CE

Integrating and expanding competition programs offers many benefits for both EAS centers and their participants. Competitive models provide a framework for long-term goal-based growth, an expanded opportunity for functional gains and increased motivation. For centers, competition offers new ways to engage with your community and increase awareness of your programs. Learn about the value of including or expanding competition programs, opportunities for competition for EAS participants, opportunities for continuing education on equine competition, and programs offered by the National Snaffle Bit Association and the NSBA Foundation.

Elise Sheard currently serves as program manager for the NSBA Foundation, the charitable arm of the National Snaffle Bit Association. In this role she oversees current programming including the equestrians with disabilities program, Heroes on Horses, The Coaches Summit, Tomorrows Horsemen and several scholarships. She came to NSBA from the University of Findlay where she received BS degrees in equestrian studies and animal science, and a Master of Education degree in adult education.

10:10 – 10:20 a.m.

Break

Session F

10:20 – 11:20 a.m.

F1, Cerebral Palsy Basics for EAS DE

Cerebral palsy (CP) encompasses a group of movement disorders characterized by abnormal muscle tone, posture, and coordination resulting from early brain development damage. Equine-assisted services (EAS) offer a complementary intervention that addresses multiple therapeutic goals simultaneously. This presentation examines how equine-assisted services effectively integrate with conventional PT and OT approaches to optimize outcomes for individuals with cerebral palsy. Attendees will be able to identify the key neuromotor challenges associated with cerebral palsy and explain how they impact functional abilities, describe the

biomechanical and neurophysiological mechanisms through which equine movement facilitates therapeutic outcomes for individuals with CP, analyze how specific CP subtypes (spastic, dyskinetic, ataxic) respond differently to EAS and how to modify approaches based on presentation.

Shannon Middleton see bio in session D1.

F2, PATH Intl. Advanced TRI Certification Updates CE

Considering pursuing advanced therapeutic riding instructor certification? Learn about the new PATH Intl. ATRI Workshop rolling out this year and the many benefits of becoming an advanced level instructor. This session will highlight the steps to becoming an advanced instructor as well as explain the benefits of higher-level certification.

Amy Causey is the director of program quality and development at Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship in Dallas, TX. She earned a bachelor's degree in equine science from Colorado State University and ran her own horse training business prior to entering the EAS industry. Amy is a USEF licensed judge in the Arabian, hunter, and jumper divisions and enjoys officiating as well as coaching riders at horse shows. Amy is a PATH Intl. Master Instructor, Interactive Vaulting Instructor, Therapeutic Driving Instructor and an ESMHL and has served on multiple PATH Intl. committees, task forces and workgroups.

F3, Developing Your Board to be the Best Ever! CE

This session will provide attendees with tools and strategies to help develop their non-profit board to be the best that it can be. The topics addressed in the session will include board engagement, recruitment and evaluation.

Lili (Elizabeth) Kellogg retired in May 2023, from Equest in Dallas where she had most recently served as the CEO. Lili has been involved in the EAS industry since 1987. Before taking the helm at Equest she served as the executive director of SIRE in Houston, director of ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship in McKinney, TX, and program director at Equest. Prior to moving to Texas in 1984, she was faculty in the equine management department of the University of Minnesota Technical College, Waseca. Lili, who received her BS in animal science from Colorado State University, is a PATH Intl. Master instructor, ESMHL, accreditation site visitor, instructor certification faculty/evaluator and is faculty for PATH Intl. Innovation Circles. Lili has served on numerous industry boards including PATH Intl. She has served on many PATH Intl. committees and task forces and was the 2002 recipient of the James Brady Professional Achievement Award. She was also lucky enough to be a coach for Team USA at the 1996 Paralympics.

Arkansas Tech University – Chambers Cafeteria

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch, Facilitated Networking and PATH Intl. Region 8 Update

Make sure you have your name tag to scan the QR code!

Session G

12:50 – 1:50 p.m.

G1, Capturing Noteworthy Notes CE

This presentation will discuss completing efficient notes and documentation for participants in EAS, covering different template types and correct terminology. Learn why documentation and notes are so important for EAS lessons, treatments and participant success.

Lauren Crabb is PATH Intl. CTRI® and registered therapist and a physical therapist assistant. She has experience in various outpatient clinical settings and in the EAS field for 10+ years. She began her journey in EAS at the Cheff Center in Michigan during high school. Outside of work she enjoys anything outdoors, astrophotography and running with her Heinz 57 mutt!

Gabby Stephens is the head instructor at R.O.C.K. in Georgetown, TX. Gaby is an avid equestrian with 20+ years of competition experience competing to the FEI level in both 3-day Eventing and Dressage. Gaby holds a bachelor's degree in therapeutic horsemanship and a bachelor's degree in psychology as well as a master's degree in business administration from St. Andrews University. Gaby has been a PATH Intl. CTRI® since 2018 and is also an ESMHL. She is also a USEF Bronze Level Para-Dressage Coach.

G2, PATH Intl. CTRI® Video Demystified! CE

This session will provide helpful hints and an overview of a successful submission video. Attendees will have an opportunity to review score sheets and comments as well as ask questions about faculty assessment. Mentors and candidates can gain pointers for a successful video submission from a PATH Intl. Instructor Training Course faculty member.

Amy Causey see bio in session F2.

G3, Comparing Different Equine-Assisted Services & When to Refer CE

There are a lot of similarities in tools and techniques between therapeutic/adaptive riding and therapies incorporating equines, and even between different therapy disciplines, but the goals being targeted may vary. We will define therapeutic/adaptive riding and therapy incorporating equines and discuss principles of each. We will demonstrate how these disciplines may use the same activity but be addressing different goals. There can be reinforcement of skills across disciplines, but we will also discuss examples and situations when a referral to a professional therapist is warranted.

Emily Hoskinds PT, DPT, PCS, HPCS, PATH Intl. CTRI® lives in Batesville, AR with her husband and daughter. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a doctorate in physical therapy in August 2007. During college, she volunteered and worked at Hearts And Hooves in Sherwood, AR, and became a PATH Intl. CTRI®. She earned her board certification in pediatric physical therapy from the ABPTS in July 2010, and Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist from the AHCB in September 2011. She and her husband own Hoskinds Physical Therapy, PLLC, and have a PATH Intl. program on their property. The program provides PT, OT and speech therapy incorporating equines and TR and Emily also provides PT in the local school district, in home health, and in community and aquatic settings.

1:50 – 2 p.m.

Break

Session H

2 – 3 p.m.

H1, Exploring Maladaptive Behaviors in Children with Autism Part 1 DE

Understanding the motivation behind a behavior is invaluable to those who work with individuals with Autism. Maladaptive behaviors expressed can range from delay to respond to instructions, or latency, to extreme vocal and/or physical outbursts from clients. Varied and often misunderstood, all behavior has a common denominator, motivation. Maladapted behaviors or accepted behaviors have a desired outcome for the individual who is performing the behavior. We all have motivation for every behavior we perform daily. In this session, we will explore behavior, its motivational outcome, and how alternative behaviors can be developed for success in a positive and supportive environment of an EAS Lesson.

Jennifer E. Donahue holds an MS degree from Loyola University New Orleans and has an extensive background in the EAS Industry. She has worked with five PATH Intl. centers in the states of Texas and Louisiana and is a PATH Intl. advanced instructor, CTRI, driving level III instructor, and ESMHL. Jen has served as PATH Intl. state chair of Texas and region 8 representative and has served on the PATH Intl. standards subcommittee and driving subcommittee. Jen serves on the LSTEN board of directors and has enjoyed ensuring quality educational opportunities over the twenty plus years assisting in conference planning and leadership. Teaching the teachers is one of her greatest passions and she has been blessed to present at PATH Intl. annual and regional conferences. Jen has spent the last three years working in the applied behavioral analysis industry with Behavioral Transformations as a registered behavioral technician in a professional clinical setting located in Rockwall, Texas.

H2, Horse Care Best Practices CR All

This session will be a round table discussion of horse care best practices regarding hooves, joints, skin/wound care and equine mental health.

Becke Williams (Moderator) is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and region 8 ambassador.

Chris Watson started as an Oklahoma youth owning and riding horses. She later moved to Colorado and worked as a ranch hand in a Colorado state park. As an adult she earned her nursing degree and retired after 34 years. She returned to her love of horses working in two private barns as the equine manager in Oklahoma City. Chris first volunteered at Savannah Station as a horse leader 6 years ago and has been the equine manager for the past year.

Laura Decou is a lifelong equestrian starting in the Arabian & Half Arabian show circuit from 6-18 years old, riding and showing saddle seat, hunter and western horses. She owned her own horse and showed him until he passed at age 30. She has been in the EAS Industry since 2009 and became an instructor in 2017. She has been at Equest for 5 years as the program manager and equine coordinator. She oversees herd health, schooling, acquisition and retirement for 34 horses. She also helps coordinate and execute program scheduling and volunteer training. Laura is a PATH Intl. advanced instructor, CTRI and ESMHL.

Malinda Smith started at age 15 working as a wrangler and later an instructor at a horse camps. She progressed to a CHA first class instructor in 1986 and was the riding director and barn manager of Steven's Ranch in 1987. She also ran her own riding program and in 2002, she became a NARHA (now PATH Intl.)

registered therapeutic riding instructor. Malinda has managed four equine facilities over the years and for the past 35 years has run Sunrise Riders, a therapeutic riding center in Arkansas, which she co-founded with her husband Mike. Malinda has over 45 years of experience managing, riding, showing and teaching riding.

Pete Lucero started as a volunteer side walker over 20 years ago. He now works at 7 Star Horse Therapy in Amarillo, TX as the barn manager and is current chairman of the horse committee. Pete has worked at 7 Star over 19 years, and is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, mentor, and an EAGALA certified equine specialist.

H3, 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.

3 – 3:10 p.m.

Break

Session I

3:10p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

I1, Exploring Maladaptive Behaviors in Children with Autism Part 2 DE

Continuation of session H1.

I2, Raising Horse Pasture Expectations CE

Horse pasture management is on a gradient between extremely extensive and extremely intensive depending on the goals and objectives of the operation. Often horse management can overlook the value of pastures as both a space for exercise and a supplemental feed source. Developing a pasture plan for horses requires appreciation for the plants under their feet, goal setting and planning to match the pasture to the equine. Pasture stewardship is crucial as the public becomes increasingly disconnected from rural spaces and less favorable to traditional recreational and therapeutic partnerships with horses. This presentation will describe how horse pastures can be managed to better support working horses in Arkansas and the southeastern US.

Dr. Jonathan Kubesch is Arkansas' new forage extension specialist. He has studied at Ohio State, University of Tennessee, and Virginia Tech, specifically with native plants and forage agronomy. Dr. Kubesch grew up around registered Angus seedstock as well as commercial hay production. He was an equestrian camp counselor for four years in Hamilton, Ohio where he managed horses for children with special needs.

I3, Opening a New PATH Intl. Facility CE

This presentation identifies the challenges, hopes, dreams and hurdles of opening a brand-new PATH Intl. center. Learn how to get ready individually as an owner/instructor, the education requirements needed and potential obstacles.

Debbie Bright-Chun is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL and mental health life coach from Monroe, Louisiana. She opened a PATH Intl. center in 2018 and provides equine-assisted services. She offers Freedom to Flourish, a mentorship program which helps youth cope with anxiety, depression, social isolation, behavioral problems and suicidal ideations and serves girls aged 11-17 who have been victims of sex trafficking.

4:10 – 4:20 p.m.

Break

Session J

4:20 – 5:20 p.m.

J1, The Role of Horses in Speech-Language Pathology DE

This presentation hopes to correct the general misperception that speech-language pathology addresses only stuttering and lisps and to help attendees understand the value of incorporating horses in speech-language

pathology services for clients with cognitive-linguistic and swallowing barriers. Attendees will gain fresh insights into the five core areas of speech-language pathology and how incorporating horses can benefit each.

Becky Mitchum, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS was a violinist with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra for over 25 years. No longer in the symphony, she still plays her 200-year-old violin in the praise bands at Fellowship Bible Church and Hope Church in Little Rock. Her second career is speech-language pathology (SLP). In 2019 she earned her Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) credential from the Brain Injury Association of America. Ms. Mitchum is currently a full-time discovery therapist at Baptist Preparatory Elementary School in Little Rock. Whether playing her violin, walking alongside a client mounted on a horse, or doing speech-language pathology in a therapy room, what motivates Ms. Mitchum is helping her clients develop growth mindsets to reach their full potential. While she no longer incorporates horses in what she does on a regular basis, she is fond of saying that learning about how these beautiful animals can make such difference in therapy is a realization that brought her full circle: the hair on her violin bow comes from the tails of horses.

J2, Rehabilitation of the Senior Equine CR All

This presentation will provide a detailed overview of how to rehabilitate a horse that has been donated, rescued, or has gone through an illness that needs refeeding and rehabilitation. Information provided will be based years of equine management, guidance from veterinarians, and guidelines for refeeding using published research from UC Davis and journal articles. The session will share the recovery journey of three horses that started with body scores of 1-3.

Malinda Smith See bio in session H2

J3, Essential Insurance Insights for EAS Operations CE

The insurance landscape for EAS operations is constantly evolving, with rising premiums, new exclusions, and increasing complexities. This session will provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the EAS insurance marketplace, the key coverages available, and critical factors to consider when evaluating existing policies and insurance agents. Learn about recent industry trends, essential liability coverages, property coverage, the importance of care, custody, and control for non-owned horses, and off-premises activities. Attendees will leave prepared to assess their insurance needs, identify potential gaps, and work with the right professionals to secure comprehensive protection for their programs, facilities, and horses.

Jonathan Killian specializes in providing insurance solutions for the EAS industry nationwide - helping organizations protect their programs, participants and facilities. He is a PATH Intl. pewter sponsor and actively volunteers as a side walker and barn worker at 2 local operations, assisting with all aspects of prepping for the student to ride. He is also on the board of PAWS for Reflection Ranch in Midlothian TX. Jonathan was born and raised in MN, lived in CA and relocated his family to TX in 2022.

5:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Equestrian Zone

8 – 8:30 a.m.

Cowboy Church & Coffee

Session K

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

K1, Foundational Groundwork for the EAS Horse CR All

This session will discuss Californian vaquero-style groundwork, as taught by Tom & Bill Dorrance, Ray Hunt, and Buck Brannaman, to prepare horses for EAS programs. By focusing on six key groundwork exercises, attendees will learn to enhance their horse's feel, balance and problem-solving abilities, ultimately improving safety and performance in an EAS setting. For centers with limited budgets, these techniques offer a way to develop or assess horses in-house, reducing reliance on expensive, performance-trained horses. Each groundwork activity provides insight into how the horse is thinking, serving as a valuable check-in for all horses to uncover hidden braces, anxiety and balance issues. Learn the thought-provoking maneuvers to help the horse remain in the thoughtful side of their brain, rather than the reactive side, how to assess horses before onboarding to identify any gaps or weaknesses in their training and education, and how to implement a standardized groundwork approach to ensure consistent handling and expectations for every horse in the program.

Kelsy Hicks is a PATH Intl. CTRL® and equine manager. She has spent her life in close proximity to horses and the EAS world and has experienced firsthand how horses can improve lives in meaningful ways. With an appreciation for the profound bond between horses and humans, she has dedicated herself to creating opportunities for others to experience these transformative connections. Over the past two years, she has

developed 16 EAS horses with an approach that focuses on feel, timing, and balance, aiming to develop horses that are not only capable but thoughtful and responsive.

K2, When Your Greatest Problem is Having TOO MANY Volunteers CE

Successfully recruiting and managing volunteers can be one of the most difficult roles in EAS. This session will explain how ROCK recovered after COVID when dozens of volunteers chose not to return. Learn how the process of recruiting, training and welcoming new volunteers was restructured and how to develop promotional opportunities for current volunteers and create new volunteer engagement opportunities when there is an overabundance. This session will also touch on filling last-minute volunteer needs, and utilizing current volunteers to provide support and leadership.

Susy Turnbull is the volunteer director at ROCK, bringing 27 years of volunteer management experience. She worked for the American Red Cross in disaster relief for 20 years, organizing and managing up to 500 volunteers in local responses and 5000 volunteers on large, national level relief operations. Before coming to ROCK, Susy worked for the Poway, CA fire department for seven years managing 80 volunteers on the community emergency response team.

Erik Stoeckle has been the volunteer team Lead at ROCK for 17 years and has 18,500+ volunteer hours. As a Retired Army Officer with over 14 years' experience, he served as a chief logistics officer for a 20,000+ employee organization. Erik currently serves on the board of directors for a county Veterans memorial.

K3, The Intersection of the Neuro-Experiential Model and EAS Part 1 DE

The neuro-experiential model of treatment focuses on accessing the healing power of the nervous system through lived experiences. When utilized in the context of EAS, the neuro-experiential model is a powerful agent of change and is both trauma-informed and attachment focused making it applicable to a wide variety of clientele. This presentation will provide practical knowledge of the nervous system and neurobiology of humans and horses, applications of nervous system activation and grounding in EAS, and tools and exercises for incorporating the neuro-experiential model into EAS sessions.

India Baucom-Lambert (she/her) began her career in the equine industry fourteen years ago as a stable hand. She went on to work in various aspects of the industry including as an instructor and trainer, and she is a PATH Intl. ESMHL. India has obtained degrees in substance use disorders and clinical mental health counseling allowing her to work in a variety of settings including psychotherapy incorporating equines, medication-assisted treatment, residential and outpatient substance use and mental health treatment, and probation-based interventions. One of her many passions is the intersection between EAS and trauma treatment - particularly the neuro-experiential model.

9:45 – 10 a.m.

Break

Session L

10 – 11 a.m.

L1, Groundwork for Equine Behavior Modification and Training CR All

Groundwork is essential for building a team, safety, responsiveness and improved performance. Learn the importance of getting down to the horse's feet so when the rope or reins are picked up there is direct connection to the horse's feet. This connection results in true softness, roundness, lightness and responsiveness. This session will discuss lateral flexion, moving the hindquarters and disengaging the hindquarters, moving the fore quarters, leading past an object and backing.

Steven M. Jones served as the University of Arkansas extension horse specialist for 21 years. Upon retirement in 2014, Steve started Steve Jones Horsemanship Enterprises, Inc. which teaches horsemanship and training tips through clinics and private lessons. Steve's graduate education included the study of animal behavior, which resulted in scratching many of the old ways of getting colts started and horses trained and developing a philosophy of communicating with horses from their perspective.

L2, Organization and Activities of an EAS Mentoring Program CE

This session will focus on the basic layout of an EAS mentoring program and will include steps taken to start up a program, organization, training mentors, lesson format, and activities. Attendees will receive examples of resources to make it easier for newer facilities to develop programming more quickly and share some fresh ideas for more seasoned instructors. Join the open discussions and share favorite and most versatile activities for building social skills that promote health and wellbeing in EAS participants.

Nikki Murphy is a CHA IRD. She has a bachelor's degree in family & consumer sciences, a master's degree in special education, and certifications in early childhood education & life coaching and youth mental health

and trauma. She spent the bulk of her career teaching special education within the public school system and has worked as an instructor and volunteer coordinator at Bright Star Ranch in Monroe, LA since 2018. She was named program director when they started their mentoring program, Freedom to Flourish in 2022.

L3, The Intersection of the Neuro-Experiential Model and EAS Part 2 DE

Continuation of session K3.

11 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

Session M

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

M1, Experiential Learning with Horse Powered Reading® CE

Attendees will experience reading activities that incorporate horses within the arena. The activities are part of Horse Powered Reading® which uses the EAGALA model of EAL. Understand Horse Powered Reading® and how it can benefit EAS participants.

Connie Holt is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL, mentor, and region 8 ambassador. She is a certified Masterson Method equine specialist and a Horse-Powered Reading® facilitator.

Kellie Van Es holds a special education teaching license and is certified as a Horse Powered Reading® facilitator.

M2, EAS in Australia CE

Learn the history of EAS in Australia, the types of services and certifications offered, and the differences in terminology used in Australia versus the US. Details were obtained via a research project with university IRB-approved surveys sent to all Australian EAS centers. Surveys inquired about types of services, number of clients served, number of horses, organizational affiliation, center accreditation and staff certification.

Elsie Malt is originally from Queensland, Australia, and moved to Lubbock, Texas in to pursue an EAS graduate program at Texas Tech University. Elsie has a bachelor's degree in equine science and in science (Honours) from the University of Queensland. She is a PATH Intl. CTRI® candidate with a great deal of equine experience working in the thoroughbred racing industry in Queensland and being the foaling manager at Kenmore Lodge. She is inspired by the compassionate work at the Texas Tech Therapeutic Riding Center and hopes to contribute to the industry by opening a PATH Intl. accredited center in Australia.

M3, Dressage for the Exceptional Rider CE

Para Dressage is the only para equestrian sport in the Paralympics, and it was first introduced in the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics. This session will take a dive into the history and structure of Para Dressage and where to find Para Dressage resources for clients on show teams as they emerge from therapeutic/adaptive riding to competitive para equestrian sport. Learn about Western Dressage as a relatively new discipline and how the WDAA is making it accessible for riders of all ability levels. Learn the accommodations, tests, and opportunities for clients to show in person and online. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with a client currently working in the discipline and watch a demonstration of one of the available tests.

Kat Scott is a licensed professional counselor in Texas. She holds a BS in psychology from the University of Arizona and a MS in clinical neuropsychology from the University of Texas at Tyler. In her youth, Kat was a competitive hunter jumper who studied under Kathy McDonald with McDonald Performance Horses in Tucson, AZ. She was a registered therapeutic riding instructor and is the founder of GRIT Therapeutic Horsemanship in Tyler, TX.

Gabby Stephens see bio in session G1.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Arkansas!