



SIRE VOLUNTEER FAQ'S

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Thank you so much for your interest in volunteering at SIRE. The program could not exist without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We hope you will find it both rewarding and enjoyable! Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Hockley Site

Kassie Collins, Penny Kvello,
Volunteer Coordinators
vc.hockley@sire-htec.org
Office 281-356-7588
Fax 281-356-9462

Spring Site

Robin Maxwell, Volunteer
Coordinator
vc.spring@sire-htec.org
Office 281-353-6160
Fax 281-355-1231

Ft. Bend Site

Maryann Gerity, Volunteer
Coordinator
vc.FortBend@sire-htec.org
Office 281-778-0202
Fax 281-766-1212

WHAT IS SIRE?

SIRE, Houston's Therapeutic Equestrian Centers, are therapeutic horsemanship programs for people with disabilities. We serve approximately 180 clients per week ranging in age from 3 yrs. to adults. SIRE is a premier accredited center with NARHA, North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (www.narha.org).

WHERE IS SIRE LOCATED?

We have 3 locations (see maps attached):

Hockley, 24161 Spring Dr., Hockley 77447, NW of Houston, close to Magnolia

Spring, 4610 Sloangate, Spring 77373, east of I45, north of FM 1960

Ft. Bend County, 8255 Camp Sienna Trail, Sienna Stables, Missouri City, 77459

WHAT DOES A VOLUNTEER DO?

Volunteers can:

1. Be a **SIDEWALKER** - walk beside the clients as they ride to assist with balance and to reinforce the instructor's directions. No horse experience needed.
2. Be a **LEADER** - lead the horse in the class, possibly groom and tack up the horse. Prior horse experience **is** necessary. Volunteers will work with the horses from the ground, not be asked to ride.
3. Volunteer **outside the arena** - fundraising, publicity, office help, special events, etc.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Arena volunteers (Leaders and Sidewalkers) must be **at least 14 yrs. old** and physically able to walk for 60 minutes, jog for short distances and support a modest weight. Attendance at an Orientation and Training session is also required. Horse Leaders must pass a tryout. 14 -17 yr. olds must have a parent/guardian sign the release.

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED?

You can volunteer for as little as **1 hour per week** or as much as you want. SIRE has **12-14 week fall and spring semesters** and a **6-week summer semester**. We ask that arena volunteers commit to **at least 1 hour/week for the entire semester**. This is important because you will be part of a team, usually working with the same client each week. You will develop a rapport with the clients you work with and can help them to build on their accomplishments from week to week. If you cannot make this kind of commitment, you can be put on the **substitute list**, where regular volunteers will call you when they need to be absent.

WHAT ARE THE DAYS AND TIMES AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER? (subject to change)

Hockley site: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Monday-Thursday
8:30 am – 2:00 pm, Friday
8:30 am - 1:00 pm, Saturday

Spring site: 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Monday
3:00 -8:00 pm, Tuesday
5:30-8:30 pm, Wednesday
4:30-8:00 pm, Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00, Saturday

Ft. Bend site: 9:00 am-7:30 pm, Tuesday
10:00 am-4:00 pm, Thursday
10:00 am-2:00 pm, Saturday

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENT LIKE AT SIRE?

The atmosphere at SIRE is upbeat and fun. The clients will amaze and inspire you. Some classes take place in a covered arena, some in an outdoor arena. Work around horses is never a “clean” job, so be prepared to get dirty and sometimes go home smelling like a horse!

WHEN DOES THE NEXT SEMESTER BEGIN?

Spring 2009: Fri., January 23 Summer 2009: Sat., June 13 Fall 2009: Sat., Aug. 29

WHEN ARE THE NEXT ORIENTATION AND TRAINING SESSIONS?

Orientation –6:00-8:00 pm on the following dates.

Wed., January 7 Wed., June 3 Wed., August 12

Hands-On Training – 8:00 am-1:00 pm on the following dates. (Leader tryouts and training- 8:00-9:40, sidewalkers come at 9:30)

Saturday, Jan. 10 Sat., June 6 Sat., August 15

Other training dates may be available on an as needed basis. **You will be contacted by the Volunteer Coordinator if we are in need of volunteers on a day you are available prior to the next training sessions.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT ORIENTATION AND TRAINING?

Orientation is a 2 hour session on a weekday evening where you will receive and review a handbook, tour the facility, fill out paperwork and begin your training. **Hands-On Training is a 3-5 hour session** on the following Saturday where you will practice the responsibilities of sidewalkers and horse leaders.

Those who wish to be Leaders should sign up at Orientation for a tryout which will be conducted Saturday morning from **8:00-9:00**. Those who pass the tryout will have a **Leader Training session from 9:00-9:40**. Sidewalker trainees should arrive by **9:30 a.m.** on Saturday. Wear sturdy, comfortable closed toe and heel shoes. Boots or sneakers are fine. Absolutely no sandals!

WHAT DO I DO IF I AM NOT SURE THIS IS FOR ME?

We invite you to come out to observe during the class times listed above. Please call and make an appointment so someone will be available to assist you.



Houston's
Therapeutic
Equestrian
Centers

Volunteer Sign-up Page

Please fill out and return to:

Hockley site: **SIRE, 24161 Spring Dr., Hockley, TX 77447, fax 281-356-9462**

Spring site: **SIRE, 4610 Sloangate, Spring, TX 77373, fax 281-355-1231**

Ft. Bend County site: **SIRE, 8255 Camp Sienna Trail, Missouri City, TX 77459, fax 281-766-1212**

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

AGE: _ 14-17 _ 18-34 _ 35-64 _ over 65

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

1. _____ I would like to be a SIRE volunteer. Please sign me up for the next scheduled Orientation and Training session.

2. _____ I would like to start volunteering as soon as possible if I am needed. I am available on: (*Check correct box and circle the days available. You are not committing to any particular days and times, just letting us know your availability.*)

Mornings: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Afternoons: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Evenings: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Someone will be contacting you to set up a special training session if you are needed now. Otherwise we will contact you before the next scheduled training session.

3. Which site do you prefer? *Hockley* *Spring* *Ft. Bend County* *Any*

4. Briefly describe your level of horse experience, if any: _____

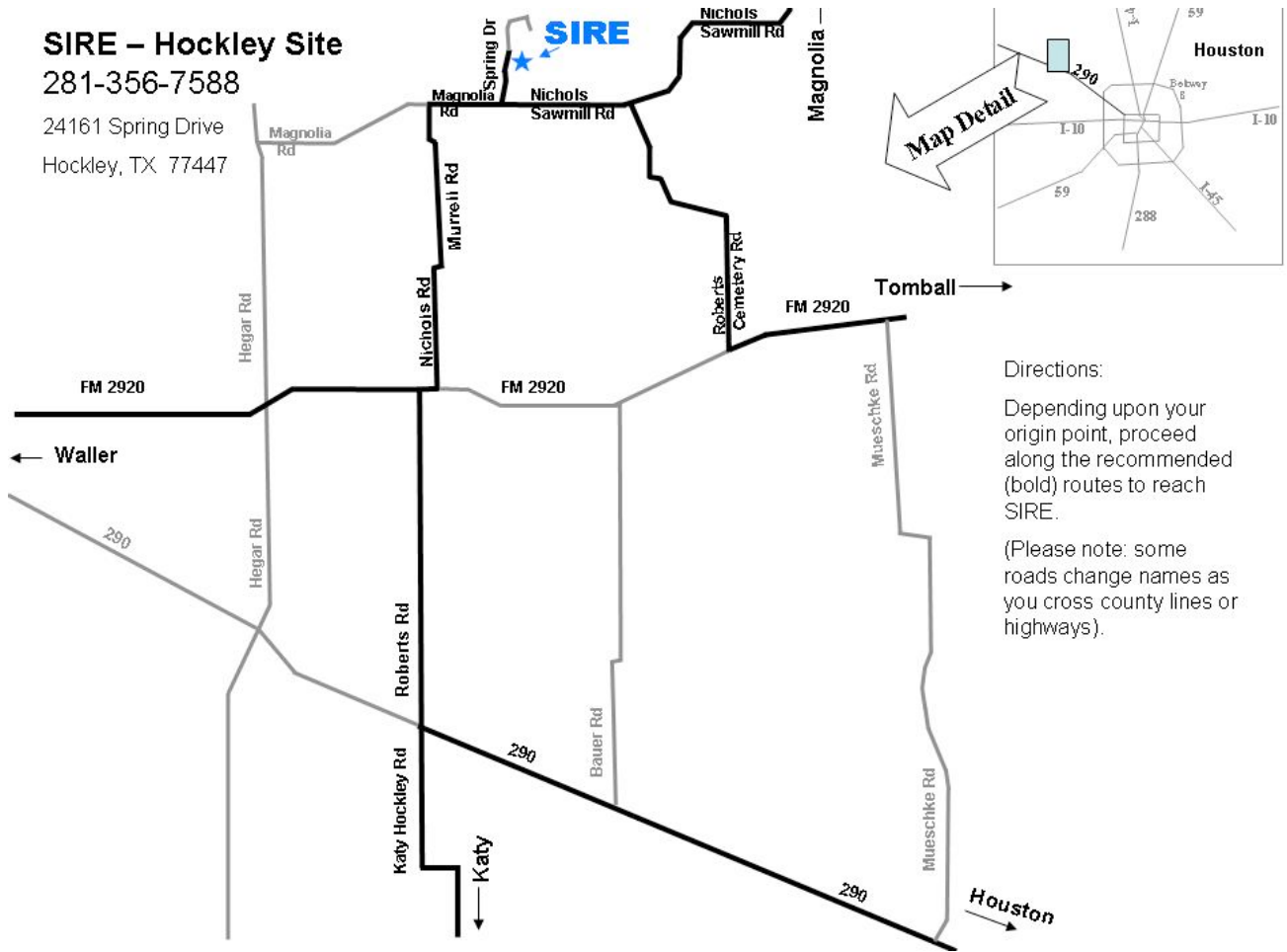
5. _____ I am interested in helping in other capacities besides in the arena. (Circle any that apply.) *Fundraising* *Publicity/Marketing* *Special Events* *Computer/Website* *Office*
Construction/Plumbing/Electrical *Other* _____

6. Please use the back for any questions, comments or other information you'd like to share.

SIRE – Hockley Site

281-356-7588

24161 Spring Drive
Hockley, TX 77447



Directions:

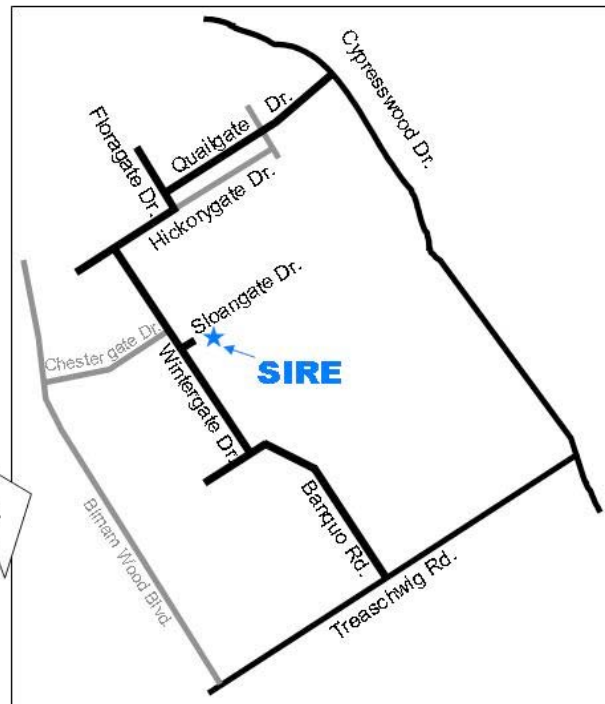
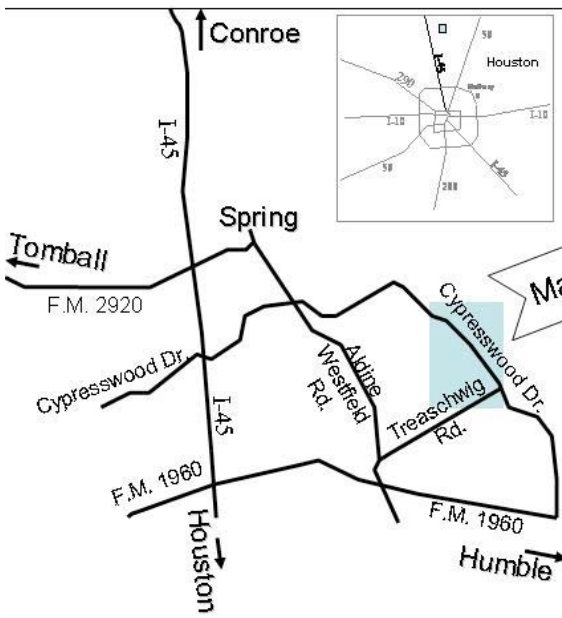
Depending upon your origin point, proceed along the recommended (bold) routes to reach SIRE.

(Please note: some roads change names as you cross county lines or highways).

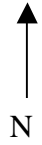
SIRE – Spring Site – 281-353-6160

4610 Sloangate, Spring TX 77373

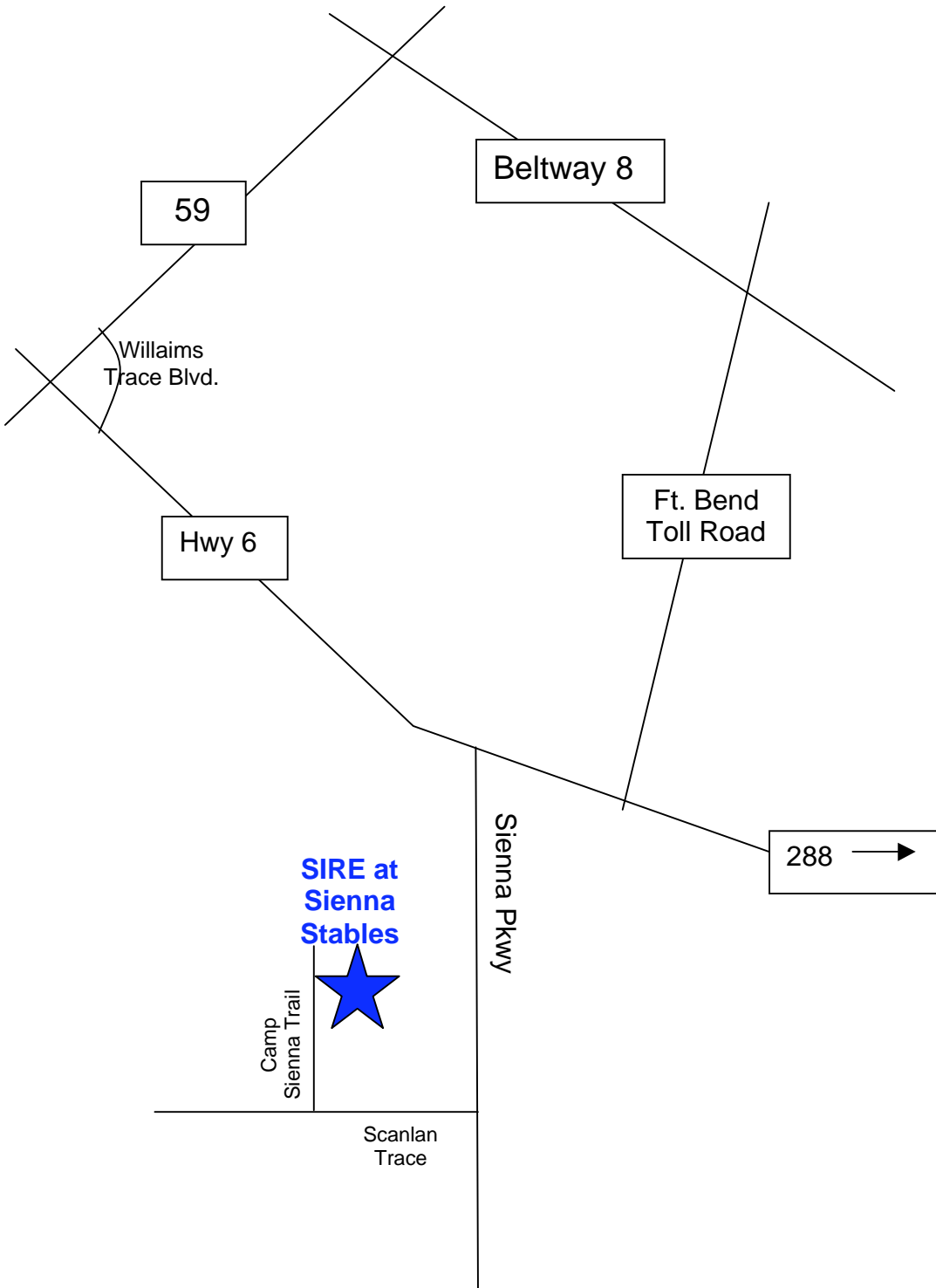
From I-45 – 2.5 miles east on FM 1960, left on Treaschwig. Turn left on Banquo, the second stop sign is Wintergate, turn right. Pass through 1 stop sign and 1 long block to Sloangate, turn right.



SIRE - Sienna Stables site – 281-778-0202
8255 Camp Sienna Trail, Missouri City, TX 77459



Map not to scale.



Directions from Beltway 8 and 59 South
Take 59 South to Williams Trace exit.
Left on Williams Trace to Hwy. 6.
Left on Hwy. 6 for 5.5 miles to Sienna Parkway.
Turn right and proceed approx. 2 1/2 miles to Scanlan Trace [turn right]
Go .8 tenths of a mile to Camp Sienna Trail [turn right]
Sienna Stables is located .7 tenths of a mile on the right

Directions from Hwy. 288
Take 288 South, Exit right at Hwy. 6.
Stay on Hwy. 6 for 9.5 miles to Sienna Parkway.
Turn left and proceed approx. 2 1/2 miles to Scanlan Trace [turn right]
Go .8 tenths of a mile to Camp Sienna Trail [turn right]
Sienna Stables is located .7 tenths of a mile on the right