

Mission Mules Wrangler

Mission Mules Disaster Response Volunteer Position

Position Purpose

The Mission Mules Wrangler provides field support to Mission Mules packers and mule teams during disaster response and other deployments. This position helps ensure mule teams operate safely and effectively while transporting supplies, equipment, and assistance into communities and areas that may be inaccessible by conventional vehicles.

This is a hands-on field position that may involve remote, isolated, and unpredictable environments. Wranglers work under the direction of experienced packers and Mission Mules Leadership while helping anticipate and address the needs of the mule team and operation.

Primary Responsibilities

- Assist packers with the handling, care, preparation, loading, unloading, and movement of pack mules.
- Assist with feeding, watering, grooming, and monitoring the condition of mules while deployed.
- Help load, secure, balance, and unload pack loads under the direction of experienced packers.
- Monitor mules for changes in behavior, hydration, fatigue, injury, or other concerns and promptly report them to the appropriate packer or Leadership.
- Prepare, organize, maintain, and transport mule equipment, pack equipment, supplies, feed, and field gear.
- Assist with establishing and breaking down temporary mule camps and field operations.
- Support packers and mule teams while traveling through difficult, remote, or unfamiliar terrain.
- Assist with transporting supplies and equipment to isolated communities and residents.
- Identify potential safety or operational problems and communicate concerns promptly.
- Follow the direction of packers and Mission Mules Leadership while maintaining awareness of the needs of the team and operation.
- When directed, work independently or remain with and care for mules without direct supervision.
- Assist with other field duties necessary to safely and effectively accomplish the Mission Mules mission.

Mule Handling & Packing Experience

Mule handling experience is strongly preferred, and previous pack mule experience is highly beneficial. Horse, livestock, backcountry, or wilderness experience may also be considered.

Applicants should be comfortable handling animals in unfamiliar, stressful, and changing environments and understand that mules may react unpredictably to terrain, weather, equipment, noise, people, and other conditions.

Packing experience is preferred, but individuals with strong mule handling or horsemanship skills who are willing to learn Mission Mules packing procedures may be considered.

Wranglers must be able to follow established handling and packing procedures, recognize their limitations, and know when to seek assistance from an experienced packer or Leadership.

Required Certifications

- Current CPR certification
- Current First Aid certification
- A Valid Driver's License

Field & Deployment Requirements

Mission Mules deployments may involve isolated communities, backcountry environments, disaster-damaged areas, and terrain where conventional transportation is limited or unavailable.

Wranglers must be prepared to:

- Deploy with little advance notice when activated by Mission Mules Leadership.
- Spend multiple days in the field and away from home.
- Sleep outdoors or in backcountry conditions when necessary.
- Work in rain, heat, cold, mud, steep terrain, wooded areas, and other adverse conditions.
- Walk significant distances over uneven or difficult terrain.
- Carry and move supplies, equipment, feed, water, and pack loads.
- Work long or irregular hours based on operational needs.
- Operate with limited access to vehicles, electricity, communications, and other conveniences.
- Adapt quickly as conditions, priorities, and mission requirements change.

Physical Requirements

This is an active field position requiring sufficient physical ability to safely perform assigned duties.

Wranglers must be capable of:

- Lifting and carrying heavy equipment and supplies.
- Handling mule equipment and pack loads.
- Walking and working on foot for extended periods.

- Safely moving around mules, equipment, and other personnel in challenging environments.
- Performing outdoor physical work for extended periods.
- Assisting with camp setup, breakdown, and other field operations.

Teamwork, Judgment & Reliability

Mission Mules Wranglers must be dependable, team-oriented, and capable of working under direction while exercising good judgment in the field.

Successful Wranglers:

- Follow the chain of command and direction from packers and Leadership.
- Anticipate the needs of the mule team and operation.
- Take initiative and assist without always being asked.
- Communicate concerns clearly and promptly.
- Know when to ask for assistance.
- Remain calm and effective when conditions change.
- Can be trusted to carry out assigned responsibilities.
- Are comfortable working independently when directed.
- Treat volunteers, community members, responders, and animals with professionalism and respect.

Trust & Responsibility

This position requires a high degree of trustworthiness, maturity, and responsibility. Wranglers may be entrusted with pack animals, Mission Mules equipment and supplies, operational responsibilities, and community interactions while working in remote locations.

Wranglers are expected to use sound judgment and protect the safety and welfare of the mules, team members, community members, and other responders.

Desired Qualifications

Preferred Experience

- Mule handling or pack mule experience.
- Horse or livestock handling experience.
- Backcountry, wilderness, or outdoor experience.
- Extended camping or field experience.
- Familiarity with pack equipment and animal care.
- Disaster response, search and rescue, emergency response, or field operations experience.

Essential Qualities

- Dependable and trustworthy.
- Physically capable of performing field duties.
- Comfortable working around mules and animals.
- Able to follow direction and established procedures.
- Capable of working independently when assigned.
- Strong team-oriented attitude.
- Good judgment and situational awareness.
- Adaptable and willing to learn.
- Willing to work in difficult and unpredictable conditions.
- Professional and respectful.

Deployment Commitment

This is a deployment-capable volunteer position. Mission Mules may activate teams quickly following a disaster or emergency.

Wranglers should understand that deployments may occur with little notice and may require several days away from home in demanding field conditions. Availability will vary among volunteers, but **reliability is essential when a volunteer accepts a deployment assignment.**

What Success Looks Like

A successful Mission Mules Wrangler is someone the packers and Leadership can depend on in difficult conditions.

They care for the mules, anticipate the needs of the team, follow direction, recognize problems early, communicate effectively, and step in wherever needed. They understand that successful field operations depend on teamwork, sound judgment, adaptability, and commitment to the safety and welfare of both people and animals.

Above all, they help Mission Mules reach communities that others cannot reach and deliver assistance where it is needed most.