

## Duties and Responsibilities

### Head Teamster:

The Head Teamster is responsible for the Wagons and Teams

Duties:

1. Supervision and coordination of all teamsters
2. Work closely with teamsters in preparation for the Tune Up and Main Trek
3. Coordinate feed, water, and veterinary supplies with Wrangler and Head of Support
4. Assist teamsters in preparation of all wagons for Tune Up and Main Trek
5. Aid the Head of Support in the coordination and organization of all motorized vehicles needed to transport teams and wagons
6. Plan and coordinate a retrieval process in the event of a breakdown with Head of Support
7. Coordinate return transportation for wagons and teams upon conclusion of the trek in conjunction with the Head of Support, as needed
8. Obtain confirmation of insurance releases for teams and wagons, as needed
9. Coordinate with the Wagon Train Executive committee.

### Teamster:

The Teamster...

1. Is the person in charge of a team<sup>1</sup> and wagon or cart.
2. Recruits a swamper<sup>2</sup> before Tune-up trek to assist them during the Wagon Train Treks
3. Shall be able to control their team at all times
4. Shall be in control of the wagon<sup>3</sup> whenever it is hooked to a team
5. Will be on the box (front seat) the majority of the trek
6. Should work with youth and adults in a safe, respectful, and positive manner
7. Will adhere to the 4-H Wagon Train “Code of Conduct” and “Articles of Organization”<sup>4</sup>
8. If the teamster determines that another person is experienced enough to handle the team, they may invite that adult or youth to be a “**Guest Driver**”<sup>5</sup>.
  - a. It is expected that any Guest Driver have sufficient experience to control the team. The Teamster is responsible for making this assessment.
  - b. Should be limited to when the Teamster determines the team is relaxed and the driving conditions are suitable for the Guest Driver’s ability.
  - c. The teamster should be in the wagon but not necessarily on the box (front seat).
  - d. If the **Guest Driver is a Youth**; see “Youth Swamper/Guest Driver” section

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<sup>1</sup> “Team” as used in this document can be one or more equines.

<sup>2</sup> A swamper is an assistant to a Teamster. See “Swamper” section for specific duties.

<sup>3</sup> Wagon is identified as any vehicle pulled by an individual or team of equines.

<sup>4</sup> Included in registration materials found on 4-H Wagon Train website

<sup>5</sup> A “Guest Driver” is anyone driving the team other than the teamster.

## **SWAMPER:**

The Swamper is a required assistant to the Teamster and should meet the following guidelines.  
The Swamper...

1. Is expected to have hands-on experience with the team prior to the Tune-Up Trek
2. Must be able to control the team at any time during the trek
3. Should be able to enter and exit the wagon safely and efficiently
4. Should be able to harness, hitch, groom, feed, and water the team
5. In the unforeseen absence of the Teamster, must be able to drive and control the team until the return or replacement of the Teamster
6. Is expected to be a Guest Driver during the trek
7. Should be able to work with youth and adults in a safe, respectful, and positive manner
8. Will adhere to the “Code of Conduct” and “Articles of Organization” of 4-H Wagon Train
9. Youth Swampers must be at least 14 years of age and approved by Teamster Committee<sup>6</sup>

## **Youth Swamper/Guest Driver:**

1. The teamster must be confident in the youth’s ability to control the team.
2. It is assumed that the teamster will be on the box with the youth Guest Driver at all times.
3. Any variation to the above requirements for youth guest drivers must be approved by a teamster committee prior to Tune Up.
4. Youth Swampers must be able to meet all Swamper expectations
5. Youth Swampers must be at least 14 years of age and approved by Teamster Committee<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Teamster Committee: Consists of the Head Teamster, Wagon Master and one other teamster.

<sup>7</sup> Teamster Committee: Consists of the Head Teamster, Wagon Master and one other teamster.