

Trail and Camp Etiquette

1. A responsible adult must accompany any rider who is under the age of 16. This applies to both members and guests.
2. Please let the trail boss or ride leader know about any medical conditions (for minors and adults) that might need our attention on the trail or in camp, and where your medications are kept and how to administer.
3. Let someone know where your keys are to your vehicle.
4. Don't criticize another person's horse, even if you have to think long and hard to find something good to say about it.
5. Sign release forms and sign Trail Head Sign-In sheets.
6. If the start time for a ride is 10:00 am that means you should be ready to leave at that time.
7. Tie a flag on the tail of any horse that kicks or bites.
8. Don't tailgate. You should be able to see the rear feet of the horse ahead of you through the ears of your horse.
9. In camp, keep your dog contained within your own camp.
10. Be sure you check in with the Trail Boss of the Ride, before you bring your dog and or stud horse.
11. Do not lope or trot past other riders without proper warning. (It's best not to do it at all).
12. Don't ride off, when others are still mounting or adjusting saddles.
13. When green horses or riders are present, adjust the ride to accommodate them and allow proper rest periods.
14. Keep your horse under control; don't let them lunge up steep hills or boggy areas.
15. Try to keep a pace that is convenient for everyone.
16. When stopping on the trail to water horses, give each horse a chance to drink and room to leave the watering hole, wait for all to finish before starting down the trail.
17. Don't expect everyone to handle all obstacles the same, as you would, please wait for each horse in the group to clear the obstacle before proceeding.
18. Be courteous and greet all user groups with a positive statement. When meeting oncoming riders or traffic, single riders should yield to pack strings. When there is a pack string in both directions, yield to uphill traffic or mutually decide which can get off the trail the easiest. In steep country, downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic. Backpackers can usually get off the trail easier than horses. Talk to the hikers and backpackers so that the horses will not be frightened by them as you are passing by. Don't always assume the right of way; sometimes it makes better sense and makes for better relations to let the other party have the right of way.
19. Leave the trails and trailheads the way you would like to find them. Put manure in your trailer at the trailhead and spread manure at "break time." Be prepared to clean up loose hay and pack it out with you.
20. When leaving camp, pack out your manure with you or spread it if appropriate.
21. At rest stops – even short ones – tie your stock off trail.
22. Hobble horses that tend to paw in camp or at "rest stops."
23. Picket or hobble horses for grazing when grazing is allowed.
24. Don't cut switchbacks; one horse does as much damage as six hikers.
25. Put up your highline as soon as possible in camp areas.
26. Pack out your garbage.