

TRAIL RIDING ETIQUETTE

- ◆ If the ride time is 10:00, be ready to ride at that time, not arrive then. If you need to fit tack and have not done so before a ride, arrive early.
- ◆ Determine a trail leader prior to starting out.
- ◆ Don't assume every rider/horse in the group is comfortable with changes of gait. Determine type of gait/gaits prior to heading out.
- ◆ Once a gait is initiated – voice check all in group to be certain everyone is OK.
- ◆ Do establish method for downward transitions. Horses can pile into each other. Use voice or hand signal to convey intentions to the rider behind you and they should do the same.
- ◆ Don't lope or gallop into a group on a trail. Fast gaits tend to “hype up” horses. This can cause serious problems for even the experienced rider.
- ◆ Look for changes in terrain and trail.
- ◆ Keep a sharp eye for upcoming obstacles and warn others: Duck for branches, warn of holes in/around trail, etc.
- ◆ Trade Positions in the group. Each member will benefit from taking positions of lead horse, middle and last horse in turn.
- ◆ Don't allow slow moving horses to fall too far behind the group, as they may become anxious.

DO

Know your horse.
Take care of your horse.
Be considerate of others.
Stay on the trails.
Enjoy yourself.

DO NOT

Smoke or Litter
Chase cattle or wildlife
Leave gates open
Trespass on Private Property or Disturb the Environment
Spoil ride for others

RIGHT-OF-WAY / SAFETY

- ◆ Most trails are multi-use. Be courteous to other users: bikers, hikers, etc.
- ◆ Stay on the right side of the trail.
- ◆ Right-of-way rule: bikers yield to hikers, everyone yields to horses.
- ◆ Uphill traffic has right-of-way – regardless if it's a hiker, biker or horseman.
- ◆ Downhill traffic yields. Wait at top of hill for others to pass.
- ◆ Often riders can't see the entire trail up or down a hill. Consider using a small bell on tack, nothing loud, just a little “tinkle” to catch the attention of a person or horse. A bell is also really good sense in bear country.
- ◆ Don't tailgate! When going uphill maintain at least two horse lengths between horses. When going downhill maintain at least three horse lengths between horses. When traveling flat terrain maintain at least one horse length between horses.
- ◆ Gates, Bridges & Crossings the “whoever gets there first” rule prevails, but always use COMMON SENSE & COURTESY!

LEAVE NO TRACE (LNT) TIPS

- ◆ Minimize the impact of recreational use by horse & rider:
- ◆ Plan ahead and prepare before you go.
- ◆ Minimize horse impact,
- ◆ In popular areas, concentrate use.
- ◆ In remote areas, spread use.
- ◆ Avoid places where impact is just beginning.
- ◆ Use campfires responsibly.
- ◆ Pack it in, pack it out.
- ◆ Properly dispose of what you cannot pack out.
- ◆ Be considerate of others.
- ◆ Leave what you find.

(LNT) TIPS FOR KEEPING PLACES HORSE FRIENDLY

- ◆ Always carry a manure fork to clean up after your horses.
- ◆ Horses should only be tied to trees for short periods and the trees should be at least 8" in diameter if tying a horse to them.
- ◆ Horses need a 30 minute break every 2-3 hours. At this time offer water. They don't need to be taken out of the trailer, just standing is rest for them.
- ◆ You can use the pet areas of rest stops as long as you clean up any manure that happens as well as any manure that falls out of the trailer during loading and unloading.
- ◆ Carrots are very good for a laxative effect. Feed up to 5lbs.
- ◆ Carry your own water if possible. If you can't carry your own and they won't drink, try adding apple juice or Gator Aide to the water. Feed watermelon or grapes and you don't have to worry about the seeds.

***REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BE A GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR
THE HORSE COMMUNITY***

**BE KIND, COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL EVERYWHERE YOU RIDE
AND THE HORSE AND RIDER WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOMED ON
THE TRAIL WITH OTHERS.**