



Trail Riding Etiquette

We are all about having fun and riding horses and to help make that happen in a safe manner, please:

- Arrive early enough to be mounted and ready to ride at the departure time. A trail ride at 10:00 a.m. means *ride out* at 10.
- When parking, leave room for others to park and tie their horses.
- Pack food and water for yourself.
- Be sure your horse is physically fit and experienced for the situation. It is your responsibility to keep up with the ride.
- Leave your dog at home or in the trailer. We love dogs, but horses react differently.
- Tie a yellow ribbon in a stallion's tail. A horse that tends to kick wears a red ribbon.
- If you have a horse that kicks, recognize the warning signs and take action.
- Do not run up on other horses. It can excite some horses causing them to kick or run.
- Do not pass the trail leader.
- Ride unruly horses in the back where their behavior will not upset the other horses.
- When watering horses, do not ride off until all horses have the opportunity to drink.
- Stay with the group. If you plan on leaving the group, let someone know.
- When the Ride Leader stops to let the horses "blow" and/or for riders to make tack adjustments, make sure you have everything in order so the group will not have to stop again in a few minutes. While you can't always prevent the next stop, be considerate.
- Keep pace with the group. Do not make the group stop because you are lagging behind. It is your responsibility to keep up.
- Refrain from passing out your horse or horsemanship expertise unless asked.
- If you come across a hiker or biker who wants to pet your horse and the horse is agreeable, let them. It is good public relations, and you are an ambassador for the equestrian community.
- Keep inexperienced youngsters under control.
- Do not leave trash on the trails.
- Clean up manure around your trailer before departing. Try to leave "no trace."
- After the ride, thank the leader. Keep in mind that a lot of hard work goes into leading a ride. Try to be a good sport even if you didn't have a great time.