

Trail Ride Expectations & Etiquette

1. You must have a signed Release and Hold Harmless agreement on file. Guests must pay \$5 for a one day saddle club membership and sign the necessary waiver to join the ride!
2. Remember that you are riding with people of all different levels. The gait for **group** trail riding is a **walk**. Let those around you know if you are going to trot, canter, or gallop, and move away from the group so other horses don't try to follow. If you are a beginning rider, let those nearby know. Know the limits of your own ability and the fitness and demeanor of your horse.
 - If your horse is not fit and cannot make it up a long climb, let the trail boss know we need to stop for few minutes. Chances are, everyone needs a little "breather" break.
 - If your horse is somewhat green, be patient; if someone else's horse is somewhat green, be even more patient.
 - If your horse is acting up, go to the end of the group, or ride off to the side. **Refrain from doing extensive training during a group ride.** This could upset other horses in the group that otherwise might stay focused and calm.
 - Watch your horse for signs of aggression such as head tossing or ears back in order to prevent your horse from kicking or biting another horse. **If you know, or think, your horse will kick, please place a red ribbon on its tail to warn upcoming riders!**
3. Wait until all riders have had a chance to mount and settle on their horses before riding out. Most horses will want to move off when the group leaves, and a horse feeling he's being left behind could move out before his rider is settled or buck his rider off.
4. Horses that are buddies should be kept together on group rides. Buddies can be real problems if split up' so let them be together. Don't try to "wean" them during a group ride.
5. If the trail allows for it, riders can ride alongside each other, but when the trail narrows, riders must stay in single file and allow one horse length between each other when riding flat terrain. When going up or down steep hills, or crossing water, riders should allow 2 or more horse lengths.
6. If you need to stop for any reason, let others know so that they can inform the trail boss who will hold the group until everyone is ready to move on.
7. When going through gates, riders must give plenty of room for all others to pass, then stop and wait until the gate person is remounted and say they are ready to move on.
8. When maneuvering a water crossing, or any challenging crossing make sure to give the horse ahead of you plenty of room, **do not crowd**. Be patient; let the seasoned and bolder horses go first so as to encourage some of the less confident horses to follow.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN, BE SAFE, AND BE COURTEOUS!