

## At the Trailhead

When at the trailhead be considerate. **DO NOT** gallop your horse around the trailhead area while others are trying to tack up.

Whether it is a group ride or a couple of friends make sure you have discussed the length of the ride and the pace before you leave the trailhead. Be considerate of all level of riders.

Ribbon your horse – use ribbons tied in the tail for the following: **YELLOW**-Stallion- **RED**-Kickers- **GREEN**- For young or inexperienced horse or rider.

## Along the Trail

Try to keep space between you and the other rider. Don't crowd the horse ahead of you. **NEVER** let your horse rub noses with the other horses when out in public and don't let them nudge the horse's rear ahead of you. It is poor trail etiquette.

## Stopping on the Trail

If you need to stop along the trail while riding with a group yell whoa and raise your hand so riders ahead and behind you know you are stopping. If a rider needs to dismount while stopped inform the

group. While the rider is dismounted the others should remain halted to prevent the dismounted horse from wanting to take off. It is a courtesy.

## Passing on the Trail

When you need to pass a rider **IN FRONT OF YOU** let the rider know you wish to pass and when there is a safe area tell them you are coming around and which side you are passing on – “Passing on YOUR right” or left whichever you decide. **ALWAYS PASS AT A WALK**, unless the rider is doing a faster gait and says it is ok to come around at the same gate. Do not go galloping or trotting by a rider on the trail, this startles many horses and being herd animals they want to bolt with the approach of another horse from behind.

When meeting oncoming riders try to find a spot to get off the side of the trail making sure your horse is facing the trail. Don't stand with your horse's rear facing the trail as it may kick as they go by. Be considerate.

## Wagons on the Trail

If driving a buggy take into consideration many horses startle at buggies and slow your rig down or even come to a halt if you see it is bothering the horse you are approaching. On horse back slow your horse and let him see the wagon approaching, get off to the side of the trail and talk soothing to your mount till the wagon passes.

## Fallen Rider-Loose Horse

Should a rider fall off halt immediately don't go charging after the horse. Being herd animals the horse will usually come back. Designate one person to go after the horse and don't gallop after it. That will only make it run faster. Have the others make sure the rider is ok.

## Run away Horse & Rider

If you hear a runaway horse coming up behind you try and turn your horse crossways in the trail to detour and slow the horse down. One rider only should go after a runaway if blocking the path doesn't work. A herd of horses running behind a runaway will only make it run faster.

## Refusal or Balking for Obstacles

If a rider is having trouble crossing an obstacle leave them room to work out the situation. Let the other riders know the problem so they can wait up. If you are riding an experienced horse that you know will go over the obstacle offer to go ahead. If that doesn't work get an experienced horse and rider to lead the rider and horse across. Make it a calm experience for the horse, don't yell and whip.

## Stay on Marked Trails

Stay on marked trails. Failing to do so can jeopardize horse trails for the future. If your group is having a special event and need to mark the trail to ride do it with ribbons or paper that you can remove after the event. **NEVER** paint trees or markers on public trails. If everyone who had an event left their markers and painted trees our trails would soon look like modern art deco. Do your part in keeping our horse trails of low environmental impact.

## Stopping to Rest

Find an open area next to the trail to stop and rest, do not stop in the middle of the trails as other riders may be coming along. Try to make it an area that is visible for some distance down the trail so as to not startle other riders approaching the area.

## Steep Country Riding

The rule in the steep country is **DOWNHILL** yields to **UPHILL** riders.

## Horseplay on Public Trails

Horseplay is in poor taste, riding up to riders and slapping their horse or pulling on bridles are not good signs of good horsemanship. If you want to horseplay do it at home or on private property not on public trails where others are affected by your actions.

## Foul Language, Smoking & Litter

**FOUL LANGUAGE** in public is not appropriate, be considerate and don't use foul language when trailriding.

**SMOKING** is not recommended on trails. If you must smoke on the trail make sure butts are out and carry them out don't throw them on the ground.

**LITTER-DO NOT LITTER** on public trails, if you pack it in pack it out.