

Trail Riding Etiquette WFBCHU

In an effort to keep riders safe during group rides the following guidelines are provided. It is the trail boss's option to use any of these.

Guidelines for every ride

Every ride has a Trail Boss and Drag (last rider to watch the group ahead)

- ✓ Trail boss' responsibility to the group on all planned rides
 - An estimate of the trail classification/difficulty (1-5)
 - Pre-ride briefing to include a review of the basic etiquette rules
 - If large group, consider splitting into smaller groups. Depart SEPARATED BY at least FIFTEEN minutes
 - Plan the sub-groups so they don't all meet at the same place at the same time, if possible.
 - Ensuring at least one rider carries a working cell phone in each group
 - Plan the route for the least experienced horse/rider.
 - Periodically wait for straggling riders, regroup and reorganize
 - ✓ Rider's responsibility to the Trail Boss
 - **BE READY TO GO-** be on time, don't hold everyone up, do your prep work before you leave your home.
 - Inquire into and know your ride
 - Respect trail boss info and requests
 - If going out in staggered groups, turn your horse the opposite direction
 - Don't pass the trail boss unless agreed upon
 - Make others aware of your/your horse's limitations.
1. Maintain at least one horse's body length between horses
 2. Announce trail hazards including low branches, holes, dogs, rocks, animals and other trail users
 3. Ensure horses depart and return to the trailers at a walk
 4. Allow horses the opportunity to drink at water crossings. Wait nearby until all horses have drank
 5. Wait for other riders in your group who have dismounted, for any reason, to remount
 6. Place a red ribbon on tails of horses known to kick
 7. Announce your presence when passing other trail users. Pass slowly.
 8. Ask permission before you move off at a faster gait or leave the group.
 9. Have an awareness of other riders/horses and their challenges.
 10. Save training sessions for smaller groups. Don't 'pony' horses unless used for packing equipment