

## TRAIL RIDE ETIQUETTE

Here are some suggestions which we have found contribute to the safety and enjoyment of all riders:

- Always call the trail leader no later than 2 days before a ride for reservations. Verify the time and meeting place. This helps the trail leader plan for parking and snacks.
- Never pass the trail leader without permission.
- A parent or a guardian must accompany riders under the age of 18.
- Non-members are welcome, but must be the guest of a member, must sign a release. Guests are limited to one ride before joining the organization.
- No stallions on the rides.
- No ponied horses on the trails.
- No alcohol on the trails.
- No smoking on the trail while in the saddle.
- No firearms carried on the trail other than by law enforcement personnel, except by people authorized by the trail boss.
- No dogs on the trail. Dogs are allowed in camp, but must be on a leash at all times.
- Do not lope or run your horse. Do not pass another horse on the trail without permission and then only when it is safe to pass.
- Maintain your position – you must be at least one horse length behind the horse in front. **Do not lag behind and lope to catch up.** On very steep climbs and descents it is proper to wait for clear distance for safety – do not trot, gait or canter up or down the hills.
- If you need to stop on the trail, tell the trail boss – the whole group will wait.
- No littering on the trail. Pack it in, pack it out.
- Horses that kick, or threaten to kick, should have a red ribbon in the tail.

Non-compliance with these rules may result in an official letter from the Board of Directors. Failure to comply with the directives of the letter may result in suspension of club membership.

If your horse's behavior is unruly you may be asked to bring a different horse for future rides.

## Trail Condition/Rating Guide

**Note:** All trails will be **ROCKY** to a degree, so if this is a concern, your horse should either have shoes or boots.

**Level 1** – An easy, shorter ride with mostly level terrain, low grade and good footing. Trail mostly follows roads or wide, well-defined trails.

**Level 2** – Some grades, but not steep or hard. Can go across county on mostly level ground.

**Level 3** – Footing may be rocky and difficult in places. May have steep grades and be narrow. Could be long in length.

**Level 4** – Steep grades, rocky and there may be some steps, negotiating ledges and large boulders. Could be long in length.

**Ride Speeds:** Slow, Medium and Fast are **WALK** speeds. If gaited indicated, call ride leader to determine speed.