

## Trail Riding Etiquette



As Backcountry Horsemen it is our duty to lead the way in the ethical use of trails systems and trail heads throughout our nation. We must get along with all user groups and be the voice for all other horse owners. It is not good enough to talk about trail etiquette, you need to be willing to practice trail etiquette.

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## Scatter Creek Riders

### Backcountry Horsemen



Promoting trail ethics and etiquette for all of our trail riding friends.

## Trail Etiquette



### Trailhead Etiquette

Park in designated areas. Leave space for additional trailers.

Do not clean out trailer onto parking area. All manure should be taken home.

Clean up the area around your trailer before leaving.

Allow time to saddle your horse before scheduled ride time.

All riders should remain in place until all riders are mounted.

Do not let horses touch noses with other horses. Mares in season could strike out at the other horse.

Leave dogs at home or in the trailer.

Do not bring Stallions on the ride.

Introduce all riders to each other.

All riders should leave the staging area at a slow walk.

### On the Trail

Follow the Trail Boss single file.

Faster horses in the front, slower horses to the back.

Stay in a group, do not ride off, or make your own trail.

Put a red ribbon on the tail of a kicking horse.

Put a green ribbon on the tail of a green horse.

Keep the pace at a steady walk or slow trot. Cantering is not a good idea with a group of riders.

Keep enough space between horses so that you can see the feet of the horse in front of you between your horses ears.

If stopping, raise your hand in the air and say STOP! When a rider is off his horse, no one moves their horse until the Trail Boss gives a command to go.

Warn the rider behind you when coming upon an obstacle, such as a hole, branch, berry vine, etc.

On a hill when approaching another rider, the rider facing up hill gets off the trail to let the other pass.



On the flat, the group of riders with the smallest amount of riders, gets off the trail for the others.

When approaching bike riders, hikers, or motor cycle, ask them to move to the down hill side of the trail to let you pass. Be sure to thank them.

Make pleasant conversations with other user groups.

When approaching a stream to water your horse in, everyone should approach the stream in single file. Move forward one horse length at a time to allow each horse to drink.

When watering your horse in a lake, find a firm edge to water your horse from. It is best to use areas previously used by other horses.

Do not ride your horse into a lake.

Do not tie your horse to a tree. Hold your horse or use a highline.

Be aware of other horses sounds. If a horse is laboring, ask the rider if his horse needs a break.

Do not smoke on the trail.

All garbage is to be packed out.

Do not remove any items along the trail, only take pictures and memories.