

BREAKING CAMP

1. Clean up camp:
 - a. Spread manure or dispose properly- restore disturbed areas.
 - b. Make sure fire is out (use water and stir):
 - c. In a new campsite, remove evidence of mound fire.
 - d. Pick up all non-burnable trash and take home.
 - e. Put back all unused firewood.
 - f. Drag rider should take one last look around to make sure everything has been picked up.
 - g. Try to leave camp in better shape than you found it.

BACK AT TRAILHEAD

1. Report to Forestry or Park Office:
 - a. Trail conditions- so they can either repair or notify other users
 - b. If you are authorized and have repaired any bad spots
 - c. Any sightings of endangered species
2. Sign out.
3. Clean up trailhead, leave it cleaner than you found it.
Take manure, hay and garbage with you when you leave.

Pennsylvania Equine Council

is a volunteer statewide educational organization.

We are dedicated to:

- Preserving the opportunities of people to use equine for recreation on public lands.
- Protection of our priceless environment.
- Expanding and improving trail riding and other equine recreational opportunities.
- Development and keeping of trail riding opportunities in urban areas.

Membership is open to all horsemen or horse enthusiasts who love our great outdoors and who are concerned that recreational horse use on public lands remain part of the American heritage.

See our web page: www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com

If you would like to join us, or find out how you can help preserve trails in Pennsylvania. Call Bud Wills, State Trail Chair at (814) 379-3759 or write, gwills@pennswoods.net

Paid for in part by private, tax deductible contributions, and a DCNR Grant. If you would like to support this and other trail efforts, Tax deductible contributions should be **ear marked** for the Trail Stewardship Program, make payable and send to the **PA Equine Foundation**, PO Box 266; Gwynedd, PA 19437

TRAIL COURTESY

- Be saddled and ready to ride at the appointed time.
- Dogs should be on leashes or otherwise controlled. Not all horses are accustomed to dogs. Dogs may be prohibited.
- Maintain a horse-length between you and the next horse. Don't tailgate!
- Tie a red ribbon on your horse's tail if it has a tendency to kick.
- Tie a green ribbon on your horse's tail if it is green broke.
- Stay with the group and the trail plan. If you intend to leave the group, inform the ride leader.
- Don't trot or run past others. If you must pass, tell the person which side you are passing on and do it slowly and carefully. If someone is passing you, face your horses head toward the trail.
- When allowing horses to drink, stay in single file and wait until all are finished before proceeding.
- If someone has trouble, be considerate. If you have trouble, call ahead for others to wait. Impatient horses can be dangerous if left behind. Don't ride off until all are mounted.
- Be friendly and courteous to other trail users and support multiple uses of trails. Don't demand the right of way.
- Safety helmets are recommended, especially for children. Make sure all equipment (saddle, bridle, breast collar, crupper, etc.) is in good repair and fits properly.
- Carry the following:
 - Hoofpick & belt/sheath knife & cell phone (on rider)
 - First-aid kit & insect repellent (for horse and riders)
 - Halter & lead rope/cross ties, compass,
 - Whistle, water & matches
- Be prepared for all weather conditions with warm coat, slicker, hat, gloves, etc.



Today's education can help to maintain trail riding for future generations.

RIDE SMART



LEAVE NO TRACE

MINIMUM IMPACT GUIDE



Pennsylvania Equine Council

PO Box 62
Huntington Mills, PA 18622
888-304-0281

PLAN AHEAD

1. Check with the appropriate agency for rules and regulations.
Get the name and place of person contacted.
2. Are health papers and negative coggins, immunizations required?
3. Are camping, parking or use permits required?
4. Are fires allowed in the area you're visiting?
5. Trail conditions? Possible trail closures?
6. Know how not to spread invasive species.
7. Clean animals & hoofs before leaving home & before returning home.
8. Is weed seed-free feed required (west)? If so, start feeding 72 hours before so as not to transport seeds in manure.
What are grazing conditions? Is grazing allowed?
9. Are bear resistant boxes required?
10. Restriction on group size? Dogs allowed?
11. Ride only on hard roadways when trails are soft from rain or it is raining.

KNOW ABILITIES AND

LIMITATIONS of riders and stock

1. Is stock in good physical condition and ready for the level of difficulty of the trip?
2. Is the stock properly shod? Do you have boots?
3. Is stock familiar with restraints?
 - a. Portable electric fence?
 - b. Tie Stalls?
 - c. Hobbles?
 - d. Pickets?
 - e. High lines?
 - f. Cross ties?

MAKE A CHECK LIST

- Knife, matches, cell phone (carry on person).
- First-aid kits (human and horse).
- Maps, compass or GPS; know how to use them.
- Fire Tools:
 - a. Ax / saw
 - b. Shovel
 - c. Collapsible buckets - plastic or canvas
- Lightweight camping gear (sleeping bag, food, tent).
- Weed seed-free hay and grain. (If required)
- Check all riding gear for need of repair.
 - a. Take time to look over all gear closely.
 - b. Check saddle pads to be sure they are not matted.
- Tack repair kit: Easy Boot, horseshoe nails, rasp, etc.
- Water purifier.
- Salt lick or granular salt or electrolytes.
- Extra clothes and foul weather gear.
- Highline with tree saver straps, picket lines, and hobbles.
- Insect repellent for horse and rider.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Have vet check, vaccinations, brand slips - all in order.

Tell someone where you are going and for how long.

TRAILHEAD/Front Country Camping

1. Check with Forestry or Park Office or trailhead host if there is one.
2. Park in designated areas.
3. Restrict horses to horse area, use hitch rails, highline with tree saver straps, stalls or tie to trailer.
4. Be considerate if/when using electric fences/portable corrals at trailhead; they may block access for other users.
5. Water horses at designated areas or use buckets.
6. Be courteous, keep noise level down (radios, generators etc.).
7. No loose stock - control pets: leave dogs at home or put on leash, clean up after them.
8. Keep a clean trailhead; pick up after stock periodically.
Put manure and hay in provided pit or back into trailer.
9. Spray your horse with repellent; it keeps pawing to a minimum.
10. Are camping or other permits required?
11. Self-contained toilet may be required. Never dump gray water.

STAY ON THE TRAIL

1. Don't cut switchbacks or take shortcuts.
2. Try to keep stock in single file on the trail.
3. Loose stock can stray off trail and cause trail damage.
4. Repair and clear trail if needed to avoid detours.
5. Don't run horses, for safety reasons and other visitors.
6. When meeting other stock users, whoever can get off the trail easiest should do so. Step to the down hill side.
 - a. When you meet hikers or bikers be courteous and take time to talk with them.
 - b. Explain the advantage if they stand on the downhill side. Horses are prey animals and will *move* away from something they are afraid of above them.
7. When stopping for lunch, cross tie or highline horses facing and well off the trail, hobble if necessary.
8. Watch wildlife from a distance:
 - a. Keep quiet
 - b. Keep moving
 - c. Don't make eye contact

**Minimum Impact Philosophy:
Disguise the sight and sound
of your passage, leaving no
sign that you were ever there.**



CHOOSE PRIMITIVE CAMPSITE WITH CARE

1. Away from trails and shorelines (out of sight of trails and at least 200 feet from lake or stream if possible).
2. Bury human waste at least 6-8 inches deep in the West and 2-4 inches in the East (if allowed)
(Chemical toilet may be required).
3. In an established campsite, use existing fire ring. In a new campsite build only a small fire or use a propane stove.
Use a mound fire on a fire blanket with 6-8 inches of mineral soil on top. Scatter when breaking camp.
4. Don't cut green trees; use only dead trees no bigger than your wrist.
5. Set up highline for horses away from the trail.
6. Use hobbles, leg pickets or electric fence to graze.
 - a. Don't overgraze an area (move around).
 - b. Do not leave horses in electric fences at night.
7. Avoid damage to stream banks or lakeshores when watering.
 - a. Try to water on gravel area or with a bucket
8. If required use weed seed-free feed for horses (grain or pellets):
 - a. Do not feed on the ground
 - b. Use feed bags / hay bags.
9. Keep camp neat and clean.
 - a. Forestry or Park Office may require manure removal.
 - b. Spread manure, 70 steps/ 200 ft. from water if possible.
10. When fishing, pack out fish entrails; don't throw in lake or stream. If camping more than a few days, bury deep in trees.
11. Practice safe bear camping: Nuisance bears are made, not born.
 - a. Hang food, horse feed and garbage high in a tree.
 - b. Use unscented biodegradable soap (scented deodorant and colognes attract bugs, bears and other animals).
 - c. Hang game animals and meat 200 yards from camp; the lowest part of the carcass should be 10 feet from ground and 4 feet from the tree.
 - d. Hunting camps are sometimes a bad example of horse camping. If hunters wish to continue the privilege of packing in with stock, they should conform to all of the guidelines in this brochure.

**Plan the trip with care: Don't take more than you need,
check maps, trail conditions and weather.**

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT