

SYVR SAFETY & COURTESY RULES OF TRAIL RIDING

These rules apply to all members and their guests. Members must ensure that their guests read and understand the rules **BEFORE** going on a SYVR organized ride.

TACK

1. Check all tack carefully before starting on the ride; all equipment must be in good and safe condition.
2. A halter and lead rope **MUST** always be used to properly tie and secure saddle and/or pack animals. A halter and lead rope **MUST** also be carried on the trail.
3. Heeled riding shoes/boots and saddles **MUST** always be used on an organized SYVR trail ride.
4. Minors (under 18 years of age) **MUST** wear an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet.

SAFETY & COURTESY RULES

1. **NO DOGS or STALLIONS** are allowed on SYVR trail rides.
2. **NO SMOKING** is allowed on SYVR trail rides.
3. All animals **MUST** be always under physical control.
4. **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS OF THE TRAIL BOSS** as he/she oversees the trail ride.
5. **NEVER PASS THE TRAIL BOSS OR APPOINTEE** who always rides in the front of the trail ride.
6. **NO PASSING** unless you ask the rider in front of you and have his/her "go-ahead".
7. **NEVER FALL BEHIND THE DRAG RIDER** or the group.
8. **NEVER SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE OTHER RIDERS OR DRIFT OFF THE TRAIL OUT OF SIGHT.**
9. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED ON THE TRAIL** but allowed when returning to staging area.
10. **MAINTAIN ONE HORSE LENGTH BETWEEN HORSES; DO NOT RIDE NOSE-TO-TAIL.**
11. **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO STOP FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE ASK THE TRAIL BOSS.**
12. No rider shall ride in a manner that may endanger life or limb of self or any other person or animal.
13. A horse known to kick **MUST** wear a red ribbon on its tail. Riders shall give the horse and rider significant space.

14. Take care of the trail. **DO NOT** cut corners or switchbacks. Stay on the trail. All persons using any trail shall respect the rights of the property owner/land manager and shall not trespass onto private property in any way.
15. **DO NOT** litter trails with paper or trash. Always leave a trail and a clean camp after a meal/snack stop.
16. **"IF A GATE IS OPEN, LEAVE IT OPEN; IF IT IS CLOSED, CLOSE IT!"** Any rider opening a closed gate shall close the same after passing through or designate another rider to do so.
17. **DO NOT** hold onto the branches when going through brush or under trees. Warn other riders about trail hazards you see, such as "hole, wire, low branch, car ahead", etc.
18. No rider/horse shall annoy livestock or wildlife encountered along or adjacent to trail.
19. When watering your horse during a ride, **WAIT, DO NOT** ride off until **ALL** horses are ready to leave the watering spot.
20. Allow significant space between horses before walking down into gullies or inclines, never lunge or gallop into them nor break into a trot or gallop at the bottom going up the other side.
21. When going cross-country, use a zigzag course going uphill to save the hill and your horse. If you **MUST** use a faster gait, make certain the horse in front of you has reached the top. **TELL** riders behind you what you intend to do. When reaching the top, keep walking to allow space for riders behind you- **DON'T STOP**.
22. **Roads and Traffic**
 - a. When riding next to a road, ride on the dirt shoulder and always ride **WITH** the traffic.
 - b. When crossing a road, line the group up horizontally instead of single file so all riders can cross as one. If the group is large, go in two groups. On busy roads, designate two riders as flagmen. Always walk; **DO NOT** rush across pavement