

Orientation Checklist

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Welcome:

- _____ Lots of activities for you to participate in, trail rides, instructional, team penning, lunch ride, picnic ride
- _____ Special activities - grooming, saddling, parts of the horse, roping, evening presentation
- _____ If there is something special that you would like to do please ask, we'll try to accommodate

Riding Routine:

- _____ Wait outside corral until ride is called.
- _____ Once inside the corral, wait by the water tank until the wrangler has your horse ready and calls you over.
- _____ Wrangler will help you dismount, gather your things, and see you safely form the corral asap.

About Horses:

- _____ Prey animals.
- _____ Herd animals - stay with wrangler at gates
- _____ Pecking order.

Guest Responsibilities on the ground:

- _____ Helmets/hats - stampede strings
- _____ Boots.
- _____ Chinks and pommel bags.
- _____ Don't tie on clothing onto yourself. Loose clothing gets tied onto the saddle or put into saddle bags.
- _____ Don't approach horses tied to the rail. Wranglers will get your horse for you.

Guest Responsibilities in the saddle:

- _____ Be aware of horses' temperaments - both your own and the horses around you.
- _____ How do you respond?
- _____ Clothes, bug spray, sunscreen, pictures, water, getting in/out of saddle bags - not from horseback.

Wranglers:

- _____ Here for your safety.
- _____ Respect their requests and suggestions.
- _____ Please stay behind them on the trail when requested.
- _____ Rides will walk back to the barn.
- _____ Wranglers will help you mount and dismount.
- _____ Wranglers all carry radios. The ranch is on channel five. This information is with the radio.

Final Thoughts:

- _____ Alcohol, medications and riding don't mix.
- _____ No Smoking on horseback or on a break b/c of fire ban.

Approaching a horse and preparation for mounting:

- _____ Approach where the horse can see you.
- _____ Be relaxed, rub the horse, let it sniff you.
- _____ When walking around a horse, walk at least six feet behind the animal.
- _____ Balance the weight in the saddle bags.

Demonstrate Mounting:

- _____ Left side.
- _____ Reins and mane in left hand. Cante in the right. Foot in the stirrup.
- _____ Pull up gently, standing close to the horse and not pulling the saddle over with lots of leverage.
- _____ Sit down quietly in the saddle.
- _____ Put your feet in the stirrups.
- _____ Hang onto the reins.

Demonstrate Dismounting:

- _____ Slide left foot out to the ball before stepping down - the reverse of mounting.
- _____ Alternatively, slide left foot out to the ball, swing right leg over, take left foot out all the way before sliding down.

Demonstrate posture:

- _____ Balanced.
- _____ Heels down.
- _____ How to hold reins.
- _____ Don't wrap reins.
- _____ Hand and body position for going forward, stopping, standing still, going up and down hills.

Concept of Pressure and Release:

- _____ How to get the horse to go.

Reining:

- _____ Knotted reins.
- _____ Hands in neutral position.
- _____ Stopping.
- _____ Don't hold the reins and the saddle horn in the same hand.
- _____ Neck reining.
- _____ Direct reining.