



Dream River Ranch

Rider Safety

Riding is a sport, just like tennis or skiing. You are a participant, not a passenger, so when you ride, be riding all the time. The horse has a mind of its own and will use it. BE ALERT!

SIMPLE RULES FOR RIDING SAFELY ON THE TRAIL

- ❑ Listen to your instructor.
- ❑ Keep your feet in the stirrups and never let go of the reins.
- ❑ Do not remove clothing/jackets without asking the instructor to “hold your horse”.
- ❑ Do not throw items to or from your horse.
- ❑ Never pass the instructor and stay single file unless instructed otherwise.
- ❑ Never dismount from your horse without an instructor assisting you.
- ❑ If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your instructor.
- ❑ NO SMOKING ON THE TRAIL

REASONS FOR FOLLOWING THE RULES

- The hitching rail is a potentially hazardous area. Listen carefully to instructions about safety zones and escape routes. Upon returning from a ride, the instructor will assist you in dismounting and securing your horse back to the hitching rail. Horses are never secured with reins, but with lead ropes using quick release knots.
- Horses are animals of flight, the horse is startled by sudden movements, loud noises and unfamiliar objects. Secure your clothing, hats, water bottles and cameras before departure. Ask the instructor to stop if you need to make an adjustment.
- On a trail ride, the instructor is in the lead to maintain control of the ride and watch for things that might spook or trip your horse. A nice pleasant walk is suitable and required. Faster paces can be requested. The pace all trail rides are ridden will be at the level of the lowest skill.
- There are hidden dangers on the trail. Maintain control of your horse and be alert. Don't follow the horse ahead of you too closely he/she may find tailgating annoying and kick. A good distance is at least a horse length. If your horse fails to keep up with the others, has tricks you don't like, or is lazy, ask for help.
- Allowing your horse to eat/graze on the trail leads to unwanted and untimely sudden stops. Allowing your horse to use another rider's leg or horse as a head scratching post can be annoying, painful and/or cause an accident.
- It is unsafe to continue down the trail when a member of your party is dismounted. Wait for the person to get back on their horse before moving on. If your instructor is opening a gate, move through the gate enough to get the entire party through, and then stop and wait for the gate to be closed and the instructor to take the lead again.