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Trail Etiquette

1. Leave room between you and the horse in front. Don't crowd without permission.
2. Enter a stream crossing downstream of drinking horses. Don't muddy the waters.
3. Wait for other horses in the group to finish drinking before walking out. If you must leave others who are drinking or sponging, ask them if it will disturb them before leaving. Walk out then pick up speed down the trail so the drinking horses don't want to follow.
4. If your horse has threatened to kick before, train him not to kick. Tie a red ribbon your horse's tail to warn folks of the potential if he's crowded.
5. If you ride a kicker, point his butt away from riders if they politely ask to pass.
6. If you have a mare in season, don't let her get under the noses of every gelding or stallion in the ride.
7. If you have a stallion, mark him with yellow so that the rest know what he is without looking for that "optional" equipment.
8. Stallion handlers should respect the other riders safety, and the other riders should respect the stallion's space. Neither group has any priority over the other, just mutual respect. If any horse needs "special space" they aren't ready to be there in "polite company".
9. Stay out of the entry to P&R gates unless you are ready to enter. It's ok to stand nearby while bringing your horse down but let others pass who are ready.
10. Remember that the first person off the starting line is not necessarily the first person to cross the finish. Don't be pushy at the start.
11. If a vet has to stop and treat an animal, be considerate. The rider of the horse being treated didn't try to "ruin your race", and the vet is doing the best he/she can until more help arrives.
12. Don't sponge your horse directly out of drinking water. Take water out in a pail and sponge from your pail.
13. If you see "leftover" personal hay, ask before you let your horse snarf it up. Those folks may be counting on more horses thru to their crewing area.
14. If you want to pass on the trail, call out "Passing on your left/right please". If the trail is too narrow, announce your intention to pass at the next reasonable spot. Don't grumble because that person up

front is darned slow. Use the time as an opportunity for a “breather” before picking up the pace again.

15. Dogs stay on a leash and under their owner’s control. They are not at any time allowed in the vetting area.
16. If a rider is down off their horse, slow down and ask if everything is OK. Do not blast past.
17. If a rider / horse is hurt, determine what help they need. Get word to ride management.
18. If you are pulled on a ride, have the good graces to say thank you to the vet and ride management. It isn’t their fault that it happened. Watch, learn, ask questions.
19. If you require vet or farrier care, be prepared to pay for it. Not everybody brings cash on the trail for a thrown shoe, but you should follow up on it at the first opportunity. Vet and Farrier supplies are not free.
20. Have fun!
21. Don’t walk through the vet check area where the trot-out is done.
22. Inform the vet if you think there is anything wrong with your horse. The vet is there to help, not to automatically pull you from the ride.
23. Control your horse in the vetting area. Be firm. Teach your horse manners.
24. At the vet check, if waiting in line, or wherever horses are bunched up, give space around you. Don’t crowd.
25. At a gate, someone must dismount to open the gate. Wait for that person to remount before leaving. Always leave in the order that you arrived at the gate. Once underway, you may change the order.
26. The horses and riders of a higher distance usually have the right of way at the vet checks. If there is an unoccupied vet, be sure to wave and tell him/her that you are waiting.
27. It is your responsibility to make sure that when you hand over your rider card that you get it back. Check to make sure it is yours.
28. Be courteous.
29. “To finish is to win”.