



MONTHLY TABLE TOPICS

CREATED FOR
EQUESTRIANS
GROUPS

DISCUSSIONS AND
ACTIONS THAT
PRESERVE BRIDLE
TRAILS



HORSETRAILEXPERT.COM

Trail Use Ethics

Equestrian Club Talking Points



Other than volunteering, fundraising, or donating to park agencies, identify ten ways every rider can contribute to protecting bridle trails.



Trail Use Ethics

Equestrian club talking points



In what ways are club leaders promoting trail use ethics within your group?



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Discussion:

Identify ten trail and facility related issues that were favorably addressed by park staff.



Trail Use Ethics

Equestrian Trail Riders



Commitment to Action Goals

1. Kick manure off of shared-paved trails.
2. Clean up manure, bedding, hay, excess horsehair at a parking areas and around trees (if no manure bin, take it home).
3. Pick up litter at staging and rest areas.
4. Refrain from riding when it's too muddy.
5. Ride sober.
6. Ride only on designated horse trails.
7. Research park rules before riding.



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Discussion

In what ways has trail riding and trail advocacy changed over the past 50 years?



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Identify:

Ten positive aspects about the public horse trail(s) you frequent the most.



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Discussion:

In what ways have the requests for amenities, trails, or facilities from your group/club aligned with, or deviated from the park's preservation goals and mission statement?



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How does mandating group permits benefit park agencies and park visitors?

List ten examples.



National Trails Day



Discuss the importance of recognizing and celebrating:

1. Riders who contribute to and promote trail sustainability and who follow the rules
2. Dedicated volunteers within or outside of advocacy groups
3. Current inclusion opportunities
4. Trails/parks where volunteerism is optional
5. Park staff who are knowledgeable advocates
6. Parks and staff who prioritize horse trail maintenance and safety
7. Rider fortitude
8. Trail horses & mules



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Volunteerism

What is the purpose and scope of your club's volunteer efforts?



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Future Generations

Identify five ways your club is promoting trail use for future generations?



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Contingency Plans

How is club leadership preparing for a decline in volunteer numbers?



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Volunteerism

In what ways have volunteer projects aligned with and/or deviated from park agency standards?



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Blanket Trail Closures

Discuss ways riders can prevent seasonal trail closures.



14 Principles of Bridle Trail Ethics

Riding with Intent

- Avoid riding when trail conditions are saturated or muddy
- Clean up campsites before checking out
- Keep hooves and feet on assigned trail tread & in designated areas
- Keep out when parks or trails are closed
- Know and follow manure removal protocols
 - Take trailer manure, hay and bedding home, do not pile around trees or toss it into natural areas
- Leash dogs where required
- Obtain special use permits and bridle tags when required
- Park only in designated areas
- Prepare - plan routes beforehand and pack a paper map
- Ride as if everyone you encounter is a beginner - slow down when approaching/passing other riders
- Ride sober
- Rules-research park rules be knowledgeable and disciplined
- Tie horses to approved structures only
- Treat park staff and other trail users respectfully

