

## Horse Trail Ethics

**H**orseriders make up a select group who step beyond civilization to experience being "on their own" in the outdoors. We want you to have an enjoyable experience, so please help us protect the quality of the outdoors. Here are a few things which will go a long way toward helping if everyone makes them part of his or her personal code of ethics.

**PLAN YOUR TRIPS** Before starting out, study maps of the area and learn the terrain. Be sure you are familiar with all options of time, alternate routes, and weather. Do not forget the shorter daylight hours during late fall and winter. Be sure to travel with a first aid kit, a map, and a compass; and know how to use them.

**USE CAUTION WHEN APPROACHING BACKPACKERS AND HIKERS.** Horses commonly spook upon sighting brightly colored backpacks or when surprised by hikers. Help avoid potentially dangerous accidents. **RIDE ALERT!** Casually make hikers aware of your presence.

**FIRE** To reduce the possibility of a forest fire, riders who smoke need to properly extinguish and pocket their cigarette butts. Improperly disposed cigarettes are the major cause of fires along our trails. Campfires are allowed only at the horses campground. We suggest using a portable camping stove rather than a campfire for cooking.

**WATER SUPPLY** Always wash and rinse your dishes or yourself a few feet away from the edge of a stream. This way the soil acts as a filter, preventing soap suds and scraps of food from polluting the water. A few feet can make a big difference. If you take water from a stream remember to properly treat it with a commercial water filter, with purifying tablets, or by boiling it for several minutes.

**DISPOSAL OF LITTER** Burying trash and garbage was once the ethical way to dispose of litter outdoors. However, animals and frost action usually reversed the efforts after the campers were on their way. Today, the problem is compounded by the high number of people using the same areas. **THE BEST POLICY IS TO CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN.**

**HUMAN WASTE** In areas where restrooms are not provided, stay at least 200 feet from any water supply, camping zone, or trail. To promote decomposition and sanitary conditions, dig a small hole approximately 8 inches deep and cover it after use with loose soil and leaf litter.

**BRIGHT COLORS** Wearing bright colors during hunting season, particularly deer season, is a good idea. In fact, it can prevent injury or death. However, during other times of the year bright reds, orange, and yellows serve to "shrink" the outdoors by visually intruding into the wide spaces and solitude which are part of the outdoor experience. When drab colors (brown, blues, and greens) are used, more people can use the same general area without knowing of each other's presence.

**PETS** Most of us love "man's best friend," but even on a leash, his presence may disturb the outdoor experience. Native wildlife often shies away from areas which dogs use, thus preventing the close observation many trails users hope for. Barking also often disturbs other trail users and sanitation within camping zones can become a problem.

## Horse Campground Rules

**For your safety, the courtesy of others, and the protection of the resources.**

Quiet Hours: 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

*Restricted riding hours within the campground: 11:00 p.m. to Sunrise. Horses may be led at a walk within the campground. Beyond the campground, trail riding is permitted after dark.*

*Horses should be tied at hitching rails and poles, or on picket lines only. Tying to trees, limbs, brush, or structures is strictly prohibited.*

*Running and racing of horses within the campground is prohibited.*

*Dogs within the campground should be under the control of the owner at all times and will be nondisruptive to other campers and trail riders. Dogs must be tied or on a leash.*

*All terrain vehicles are prohibited throughout the property.*

Refer to "The State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources, General Property Regulations" for other rules and regulations.

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