

Extended Trail or Horse Camping Guidelines – for all levels

Safety for both horse and rider is of prime importance.

- **If this is a new activity or if you are returning after a lapse, current information on back country camping with horses is available on the net or in a number of specific books.**
- **Information on areas that allow horse and people activity is available and updated on local, and Provincial sites.**

Minimum age requirements are established for each level

- Minimum Age of horse requirements
 - Level 1 – at least 5 years
 - Level 2 – at least 6 years
 - Level 3 – at least 7 years
- The decision to participate in Extended Trail or Horse Camping is a personal one.
- The activity may be alone or with others or a combination of both.
- At all levels is important for a horse to be comfortable with other horses or alone. At the higher levels, it is important for the horse to be comfortable leading a pack horse, to be comfortable as a pack horse, OR to be comfortable with other riders and horses and pack horses.
- The decision to ride alone or with others is that of the participant.
- The prime consideration is safety.
- Conditioning for horse and rider is advisable prior to the activity.
- Inform wardens, park officials or a friend where you are going and when you expect to return

Tack and Attire Suggestions – not inclusive

- saddle bags
- saddle horn bag
- hay bag
- water bucket
- Jug to carry water
- feed bucket or nose basket
- long rope
- knife, hatchet or buck saw
- hobbles
- picket rope and picket
- bear spray or bear horn within easy reach
- rain jacket or slicker (rain gear)
- chaps

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- helmet – maybe with brim for shade or ball cap
- boots with heel
- gloves
- maps
- flash light or head lamp
- lighter
- dry pack
- whistle
- compass
- halter for under bridle
- farrier tools
- horse boots

Additional

- GPS, satellite phone, perhaps a gun.
- Sunscreen
- First Aid Kits – carry on saddle bags: horse kit on one side and human on the other
 - Equine First Aid Kit including sponge, crazy glue, sutures, bute, bandage, sedative, electrolytes
 - Personal First Aid Kit – in addition to regular items, EPI pen if necessary

Trail Etiquette

When riding with others, practice safe and respectful etiquette including but not limited to:

- Respect for the skill of other riders and horses
- If riding with a group, stay in the group. Do not leave group without warning or permission
- Wait for others to get through obstacles before continuing
- Maintain safe distance between horses
- Know where you are riding – maps etc.
- Let someone know where you are riding
- When going up or down a steep trail that is deemed unsafe for the rider to stay mounted, dismount and lead the horse. It may not be possible for the horse to stay behind you.
- When going down steep trails the horse must know how to shift its weight to the hind quarters

Level 1

Horse must be at least 5 years of age.

Base Camp

Camper or trailer or tent.

Required skills

Demonstrate either through video or documentation by an observer

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- horse tied to a high line, to side of trailer or a tie stall. A portable stall is acceptable.
- horse tied to a tree.
- horse is comfortable under a protective tarp for shelter (this may not be possible in a camp situation)
- horse will eat from a hay net, bucket, or nose bag
- Horse can be hobbled and graze while hobbled
- Horse can be picketed and graze while picketed
- horse will drink from a flowing water source such as river or stream.
- horse will drink from a bucket.
- horse can be mounted and dismounted on both sides
- horse can be mounted and dismounted with rider wearing chaps
- horse can be mounted and dismounted with rider wearing a slicker.
- Horse can be mounted and dismounted under a variety of weather conditions. Note: may be done at home or in camp if weather conditions are present.
- horse can ride out of camp alone (without other horses)
- horse can be led safely down a steep trail (beside the rider)
- horse can be led safely up a steep trail with rider beside horse

Ride Requirements

- Day rides from camp and back to camp.
- At least 3 rides of 10 km each.
- No minimum elevation or terrain requirements

Level 2

Horse must be at least 6 years of age.

In addition to the General Requirements and required skills in Level 1.

Demonstrate through video or documentation by an observer

- horse can be hobbled or tethered to a stake for grazing
- horse can be ponied while under saddle
- horse can pony another horse
- can lead a pack horse
- demonstrate you can throw a diamond hitch and pack a horse

Ride Requirements

- Day rides from camp
- 3 rides of min 15 Km
- No elevation requirements
- Rides must include water crossings and a variety of terrain challenges

Level 3

Horse must be at least 7 years of age

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- camp set up at least a one day ride from trailer (approximately 4 to 8 hours)
- minimum of 2 horses – one riding and one or more pack animals OR a wagon and horses
- a base camp for rides each day OR camp may be moved each day.

Ride Requirements

In some areas of North America, it is possible to expect changes in elevation including elevation gains. That may not be true of other areas in Canada. If elevation gain of 2000 feet is not possible, then a variety of terrain must be covered (ocean, sand, flat land, heavily treed, rocky, muddy etc). Submit concerns regarding this requirement to CRTWH.ca..

- minimum of 5 rides including ride in to camp
- ride lengths of at least 12 km
- riding at least 4 days - at least 2 consecutive days
- elevation gain or loss of at least 1000 feet on each ride
- river or stream crossing that is 15 to 50 feet wide and a foot deep
- one ride a minimum of 20 km
- **one ride with an elevation gain of 2000 feet where possible.