

# Trailblazer's Trail Boss Guidelines

1. Advertise pertinent ride information in the newsletter and indicate an R.S.V.P. deadline in a timely manner. Advertise clear directions to the ride, or provide a map whenever possible in the newsletter. For overnight events, when possible give members the phone number of the camp so that they can be reached in an emergency.
2. Pre-ride the trail when possible. Assure the trail is safe above all else. Assure adequate parking.
3. Try to arrange a meeting place and time for a caravan for rides that are not local, and designate a caravan leader.
4. Notify riders if they need to bring their own water, if horses need to be shod, or any other special information. Notify them in advance of park or camp rules, such as no dogs, no portable corrals, etc. Give riders as much information about the ride in advance as possible. Obtain trail maps for all riders when possible.
5. The Trail Boss must be responsible to contact all R.S.V.P.'d riders if a ride is cancelled or postponed, or if anything changes.
6. The Trail Boss should hold a pre-ride meeting at the staging area to go over the route, the expected speed, the distance, where lunch will be, etc. After designating a leader for the second group the Trail Boss will split the ride into two or more groups if appropriate, based on level of ability, preferred speed and distance.
7. The Trail Boss should designate a drag rider when there are larger groups. The drag rider should be responsible to yell ahead when there is a problem, and keep an eye on safety of riders ahead whom the Trail Boss cannot see.
8. Never go any faster than the slowest rider is comfortable going in your group. Once everyone in the group has agreed to trot or canter, the Trail Boss must signal when making transitions.
9. The Trail Boss must maintain awareness if some of the riders are lagging behind due to a slower pace, and must be responsible to slow the pace if others are jiggling or trotting to keep up. If others are simply dawdling, the Trail Boss must stop and wait periodically and at all intersections to assure the rider don't separate too much or take a wrong turn.
10. The Trail Boss should be responsible to check that riders have safely secured their horses for overnights, checking for potential safety hazards such as picket line height, lead rope length, etc.
11. The Trail Boss should ascertain that riders are following Trailblazer rules and be responsible to notify anyone not complying, and require correction or dismissal from the ride as appropriate.
12. The Trail Boss or a designee should carry a first aid kit.

13. The Trail Boss is responsible to assure all riders pass safely through gates. The Trail Boss may designate a willing rider to open and close gates when needed, or may do so him/herself.

14. The Trail Boss should assure that safety of the trail at all times, and should use good judgement in assessing potentially hazardous trail conditions which may require dismounting and walking horses.

15. The Trail Boss should check that the staging/camping area is left clean before exiting.

16. The Trail Boss must ensure that all ride participants have filled out the current year Application/Release of Liability form and given a check or cash to either the trail boss at the event or to the membership chair prior to the ride. If there is any doubt, the trail boss should contact the membership chairperson to ensure all participants are members. The trail boss should also have the emergency contact list available at the ride.