



345 Hickory Flat Drive; Gillsville, GA 30543
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TRAIL RULES

Riders under 18 must wear a helmet. Minimum rider age is 7 years old, previous trail riding experience required.

The trail terrain is sometimes mountainous, a breast collar for your horse is recommended.

When riding the property, stay on designated marked trails, gravel or dirt roads. Do not shortcut switchbacks. Getting off the trail greatly increases your chances of stepping in a hole, encountering dangerous terrain, stirring up a yellow jacket nest, or getting lost.

Do not trespass onto adjoining private property.

Comply with all signs and respect barriers.

Cross the river/creeks and water your horse only at designated crossings.

Loose dogs strictly prohibited on trails as well as all other areas of the ranch.

During hunting seasons, it is recommended that riders wear bright orange vests and/or a cow bell.

No racing or rough riding on trails or in camp, no riding double, and no ponying on trails.

No unauthorized ATV's or motorcycles in camp or on the trails.

Take high lines or cross tying lead lines to use in the forest rather than tying up horses directly to trees. Do not tie up horses within 25 feet of the creek or any picnic tables.

Protect the scenic value of the trails by not littering. Whatever you pack out on the trail or to picnic areas, be sure to pack out again.

Please do not feed the swamp creature.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Avoid riding alone. If you must do so, tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

Always have a "trail boss". Larger groups should also have a drag rider. These should be experienced horse people who can assist less experienced riders and horses, if necessary.

If your horse kicks, you need to tie a red ribbon in the tail.

Never start riding until all riders are mounted up and ready to go.

Maintain a safe distance between riders, at least one horse length between horses. Do not run up behind a horse on the trail.

On the trail, never pass the trail boss unless requested to do so.

Don't leave a dismounted rider on the trail unless they ask you to.

Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic.

When coming up behind other riders, slow to a walk and alert them your approach so that he/she can correctly handle his/her horse as you come up, or advise you if he/she is having any problems. Pass only at a walk, ride single file, pass left.

When approaching others head on, pass only at a walk, ride single file, keep right. Space permitting, one group may pull aside and stop. When going around blind corners make your presence known.

Never trot or gallop away from the group without warning. Coordinate "fast" work with other riders so no one's horse gets excited and tries to keep up with the group before the rider is ready. Organize a game plan before hitting the trail in case you stir up a bee's nest.

Don't take unsafe or untrained horses on a group ride (3 or more). These horses should be conditioned with experienced horses and riders before being subjected to a larger group.

If you or your horse are having trouble, allow more space in front and behind. If necessary ask the trail boss to stop the group to allow you to work out the problem.

At a stream, stay together and wait until all horses have had a chance to drink before riding away. Some horses have trouble crossing streams. Give them space!

Use the "buddy system". Always be willing to lend a hand if needed, and ask for help if you need it.

Smoking while riding can be dangerous. Pick a fire-safe rest stop to have a cigarette. Do not throw butts on the ground – pack them out with you.

If you stop on the trail, tie your horses to high lines provided or cross tie with your lead lines. Tie high, solid and short enough with a slip knot to prevent entanglement, and provide sufficient space between horses so they can't go "butt to butt" and kick each other.

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Don't let your horse scratch on or nuzzle other horses or riders. Aside from being annoying and starting horse disputes, this is a frequent cause of "hang up" and broken headgear.


No alcohol on the trails.

We recommend you pack a cell phone on your person (not attached to your horse), trail map with phone numbers, bottles of water, a first aid kit, snacks, halter and lead line (and a camera!)

If you see a tree down on the trail, a bee's nest, or other maintenance needed, please make a note of the trail name or junction letter and pass this information on to the management.

Enjoy your ride!

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RESPECTED ACCESS
IS OPEN www.respectedaccess.org

Hold Your Horses

Riding on trails that are wet can damage trails. Rain softened surfaces are vulnerable to use immediately after rainfall events. Please allow trails time to dry before adventuring out. Ride on dirt roads or more durable surfaces and allow the trails to recover. Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior and best practices.

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