

BCH Trail Leader and Members Guidelines

Pecos Chapter

- 1. Personal Needs for Project.** For you, water, food, medicine, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc. For your animal, water, hay, oats, medicine, fly spray, buckets, etc. Check in advance to see if there is water available at camp, bring enough food if you decide to stay an extra day for you and your animal. Don't forget your shelter (tent, camper, trailer), extra clothes, horse blankets, lead line, halter and grooming items. Horse containment method (picket line, corral, electric fence, etc.). Cooking utensils and method of cooking (firewood, grill, stove), pot-luck contribution for after project when applicable.
- 2. Personal Protection.** Be prepared, have your own first aid and survival kits, hard hat, boots, gloves, sun and safety glasses, coat and rain gear. Let leader/s or member/s know if you are carrying a firearm. Inform Leader/s of any allergic problems you might have, (bees, wasps, ants, etc.) or any other health or medical concerns. Tell leader/s if your horse might kick, if so tie a red ribbon on you animals tail to alert others. Bring a map of the area, check with agencies, leader/s on the conditions of the trail (steep, rocky, boggy, etc.). Leader/s usually have maps of the project area. Get a description of the work to be performed and the tools needed for the project. If you haven't used a specific tool ask a leader to teach you the safe and responsible way to do so. Check all saddles, tack, packs, and rigging before tacking up your animal/s. Inspect you animal/s closely before tacking up (feet, shoes, ears, etc.), look for any cuts, wounds, sores or injuries that may require medical attention.
- 3. Leader/s and Member/s Insurance Requirements.** Leader/s must have a project **Sign in Sheet** for all projects, all members must sign in, members are covered under host agencies workmen's compensation insurance, **ONLY IF YOU SIGN IN.** You must report all injuries immediately to trail leader/s or host agency, leader/s must report to president, chapter safety chairperson or vice president immediately. Accident report must be filed with host agency within twenty four hours of incident. Safety chairperson will appoint a safety committee to investigate all incidents and report to the officers and board of directors within ten days of accident.
- 4. Trail Leader/s Responsibilities.** Leader/s duties are to present members with a safety talk before heading out on the project, answer any questions members might have, lead the project as safely as possible, informing members of what to expect on the trail and what the project goals are. Arrange to have all the tools necessary for the project. Guide members from start to finish through the project, all decisions will be made by project leader and co-leader, including members input, we're not a dictatorship. All projects must have a minimum of three members, anyone needing to return to camp for any reason will be escorted by a leader or qualified member. Arriving back at camp safely is our number one goal
- 5. Member/s Responsibilities.** Members cooperation is essential for a safe and fun project for all, leader/s know the trail and should know what to expect from the members, listen to your leader/s and follow their instructions unless you feel your safety or well being is in danger. Help with new members on the project, buddy up with them to make them feel at home with us, check with them often during the project to see if they need any help. Members speak up at any time, whoa, stop for whatever reason, tack adjustment, climbing break, bathroom stop. If you need help leader/s are there to assist you, only you know your animal, if you think something is wrong, it probably is, **THINK SAFETY**, ask for help. Be courteous and considerate to others, don't ride off alone, let others know of your intentions. If you are having a problem with your animal sometimes moving your position in the line will make you and your animal happier.
- 6. Using Tools.** Always remember **SAFETY FIRST**, be extra careful around people working with saws, axes, picks, etc. Be alert, watch for falling limbs, branches or rolling logs, don't hesitate to speak up if you see a potential problem, you may prevent an accident. If you haven't used a specific tool and would like to learn how, qualified member/s will instruct you how to use them properly and safely. Check tools for loose or damaged parts before using them (loose ax head, broken handles, etc.) Make sure all the tools you use are properly cleaned and returned to their appropriate place (pack animal, leader, owner).
- 7. Volunteer Etiquette.** Be friendly and courteous when meeting others on the trail (hikers, bikers, etc.), even if their not. Talk to them explain who we are and what we are doing, our animals will be relieved to find out the strange moving things on the trail with those huge packs are just people. Remember we are volunteers for the USFS, BLM, Open Space, etc. and as such extensions of those agencies, remember some people just don't like horses. Kill them with kindness not our horses.
- 8. Trail Safety.** Always take extra care around animals, especially pack stock, always tie animals well off the trail when possible. Flopping and noisy packs can make animals jumpy and spooky, if your not sure about an animal ask the stock owners how to approach their stock, especially when unpacking and packing pack stock. When members are working in the trail, help guide others (hikers, horsemen, etc.) past our workers and livestock safely when on the trail.
- 9.** For more information ask for a copy of our BCH Handbook, or speak with an experienced member. Remember we're all volunteers, share the load with others, don't try to do everything yourself, we're all out to have fun and return home safe.