

GLENDALE EQUESTRIAN CLUB RULES FOR GROUP TRAIL RIDING

Revised 2/13/24

Each ride will have a designated trail boss and one or more drag riders. Stay with the group, behind the leader, and in front of the drag rider(s).

Proper equipment should be used on all trail rides for the safety of the horse and rider. Riders under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian over 18.

Stay on the trail. Do not cut corners. When the trail permits, side by side riding will provide an opportunity for conversation.

Do not speed past or up behind another horse, and never pass in dangerous terrain. When necessary to pass the horse in front of you, call out your intentions.

It is your responsibility to stay with the group. Don't fall behind.

Warn others of hazards on the trail. When stopping on the trail, stop clear of other horses and advise the trail boss and other riders why you need to stop.

NO--dogs, stallions, or alcohol are allowed on club rides.

Firearms are permitted only in responsible hands. Use is for trail emergencies only.

Rides will be graded on a one to four basis to let the riders be prepared for safer trail riding and to determine if they or their horse is qualified.

Level 1: Easy, short ride, mostly level terrain, few climbs or hills, good footing. Usually roads or wide, well defined trails most of the way.

Level 2: Generally good footing, some climbing and downhill, but not steep or difficult. Can go cross country on mostly level ground.

Level 3: Footing may be difficult in places, or rocky. At times steep and downhill with narrow or precipitous trails. Requires confidence in your horse.

Level 4: Steep, rocky, may require horses to step up and down, large rocks or negotiate narrow trails with steep drops offs. Requires total confidence in your horse.

Courtesy is important when you are riding in a group. Some trail tips to be respectful to other members in your riding party are:

- Waiting for gate openers/closers.
- Waiting for all horses to drink before leaving a watering area.
- Moving downstream to allow other horses ample room to drink.
- Waiting for riders who might be having a hard time crossing water with their horses.
- Waiting for riders who have dismounted or are off for any reason.
- Not running up behind or alongside other riders.
- If passing a branch, do not let it swing back into next rider's/next rider's mounts face
- Hikers and bikers and vehicles should yield to you but may not: be prepared!