

LLAMA TREKKING

Llama Treks is a program sponsored by the Southern States Llama Association (SSLA) which recognizes a llama's walking, hiking or carting accomplishments. It is a noncompetitive program. If you walk with several people and llamas, each of the llamas gets credit for participation. The credit accumulates to the llama and continues to build.

GOALS

SSLA's Llama Treks has two goals:

1. **Fitness:** To encourage llama handlers to promote well being and good health for both the llama and the handler by providing safe exercise in a stress-free environment.
2. **Information:** To build a database of llama-friendly trails and walks, and to continue to update information on the trails so it is like having a local person with you to increase your enjoyment of your walk.

ELIGIBILITY

Any llama owned by an SSLA member. Commercial working llamas can receive credit under this program, but only if they are not earning income for the walk.

THE PROGRAM

The SSLA Llama Treks Achievement Awards Program has special awards for both distance and event milestones. This awards program is loosely structured in the same way as the American Volkssport Association – a proven method of tracking and awarding non-competitive walking.

The awards are (1) distance covered and (2) the number of walks. These will be in the form of patches and certificates. The awards (both distance and event) are for the llama -- not the person. The patches can be sewn onto whatever the handler normally puts on the llama during their walks – a daypack, an orange neckband, etc.

Award Levels:

Event Awards:

- First award is at 10 events.
- Second level at 30 cumulative total events.
- Third level at 50 cumulative events.
- Then at each 25 events through 600 events.
- After 600 events, awards are given after each 50 events through 1,500.
- After 1,500 events, awards are given after each 100 events.



Distance Awards:

- First award level is at 10 miles
- Then at 25 miles and at each 25 mile interval 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles.
- After 100 miles, awards are given at each 50 mile interval through 500 miles.
- After 500 miles, awards are given after each 100 mile interval through 1,500 miles.
- After 1,500 miles, awards are made at increments of 300 miles.



TRAILS

Llama Treks' definition of a trail is a path that allows llamas and is safe.

Trails must:

1. Be trails allowing llamas.
2. Be well marked or have clearly defined directions with a good map.
3. Be safe for llamas (e.g. no bridges with open slats, loose dogs, etc.).
4. Be safe for the public (ex. carting paths are wide enough for the cart and a pedestrian to pass.)

Examples of Trails

Listed: Listed trails are those that people with their llamas can just go to and walk without any sort of formal event. These can be forest trails or urban greenbelts. Some llama-friendly and llama authorized trails have been identified by SSLA members. The Llama Treks trails will be posted on the SSLA Web Site with the distances of the trails. A trail can be of any length from few tenths of a mile to overnight distances. We hope that the number of listed trails will increase rapidly.

Unlisted Trails: Those not listed in the SSLA database. If you don't know if the trail is open to llamas, please contact whoever manages the trail. You are then an Ambassador for our llamas, making sure we don't create a negative situation. Some managers may be cautious, even negative, because they don't realize the difference between horses, llamas, and people/dogs impacts on trails. You might have to exercise great diplomacy. Once you get their approval, and if the trail is enjoyable and safe for llamas, please send in a map and/or description of the trail to share with others. These trails will then be posted on the SSLA web site for others to walk. They will then reinforce the positive image of llamas on that trail, opening up even more trails in your local area.

Sponsored trails. Sponsored trails are those either associated with an event or a pack trial. Examples of Sponsored trails are the SSLA Conference Fun Hike, the Llama Rendezvous at the Beach, the SSLA Spring Pack Trial and Rendezvous, the Pack Trail Association Thanksgiving Pack Trial, the Atlanta Christmas Parade. Yes, a parade counts. It's walking on a "trail" isn't it?

Records

Verification: The event and distances covered are really on the honor system. The only verification asked for is the signature of a person who will verify the llama's presence at the trail. This person could be another walker on the trail or a Park Ranger. The real purpose of the confirmation is providing an opportunity for the handler to talk about this program and about llamas to others on the trail and, for the signer, to feel involved. If the handler wants to have more than one person they meet on the trail to sign, that will engage more people feeling involved. If the trail is remote and nobody else is out there, or you only meet grumpy people who don't want to sign, the handler just signs the card.

Required logs: Each event per llama must be documented on readily available 5" x 7" note cards. We suggest that the cards can be stored in a logbook like a 3-ring binder holding 3"x5" note cards. Different sections within the binder can be dedicated to different llamas. If more than one llama goes on the walk, separate note cards should be made for each of the participating llamas. The logbook is not for the handler's walked distances, only the llama's. In the logbook, one walk per page provides space to record not only the distance and date, but also notes about the trail. These notes are critical to updating the database of trails. For instance, a handler might note that during the month of March, flies are an issue and fly spray (fly mask, fly rub-on) is recommended. At the top of the card is the space for the verification signature(s).

Figures 1 and 2 show the fundamental data to record. Blank forms will be on the web site. We are hoping to have cards filled out for the trails recorded on the web site in a form that is printable so that you only have to fill out the top section and still have the other info available. Also, we will encourage the coordinators of sponsored events to have most of the form filled out for the participants or have the information available.

Presentation of awards

The awards will be announced and presented annually at the Annual SSLA Conference. The handlers do not have to be in attendance to receive their llama's awards. It is requested that Trail data and cards be sent in throughout the

year. This allows the trail information to be posted to the web site faster and makes the SSLA Trek coordinator's job easier. The cutoff date for submissions and the check for the patches will be the same date as the cutoff for the SSLA Annual dues. Any data received after the cutoff will be added to the following year's totals.

COST

No cost to SSLA members. The SSLA Board voted to provide these patches to it's members as an annual award. Non-SSLA members still incur no cost unless you want to receive patches. The cost of each patch to non-SSLA members is \$5.00 per patch.

Figure 1: Front of 5" x 7" Note Card

<p>Verification Signature:</p> <p>Date of Walk:</p> <p>Name of Llama & ID:</p> <p>Name of Handler:</p> <p>Event (if any), Walk location City and State: (example) Raleigh NC</p> <p>Walk trail's location name: (example) Umstead State Park</p> <p>Distance walked (distance can either be metric or American): (example) 12km (7.46 miles) and Elevation change (if known): (example) 6 m (20 ft) max. elevation change</p> <p>Start Point Address / Driving Directions: (example) 8801 Glenwood Ave. The Visitor Center is located in the Crabtree Section of Umstead State Park off US 70, ten miles NW of Raleigh. From I-440 (Raleigh Beltline) take the Crabtree Valley/US 70 exit (exit 7). Go six miles west on US 70 to the park entrance on the left. From I-40, take I-540 (exit 283) to US 70E (exit 4-A). Go straight at the bottom of the ramp to 70. Park entrance is one mile on the right. Visitor Center is 1/2 mile from the entrance.</p>

Figure 2: Back of 5" x 7" Note Card

<p>Description of Trail Walked: (example) Scenic park walk on Umstead's Sycamore Trail. Natural surface through forested area with some hills.</p> <p>Location's Hours (open for use) and Dates Closed (List trail hours if different from park's): Hours: Nov-Feb, 9am- 5pm daily; Mar-Oct, 9am-6pm daily. Closed Christmas.</p> <p>Trail Contact (if available): Visitor Center, Phone: 919-571-4170.</p> <p>Trail Website: www.wonderfullamatrail.org</p> <p>Trail Contact E-Mail: (if available):</p> <p>Comments: Gentle natural trail and lots of children running around, especially near the playground areas. Serious bicyclists on trail going at training speeds.</p> <p>Amenities: Food: None Potable water: Yes Restrooms: Yes Camping allowed: No Trail usable by Wheelchairs/strollers: No Bicycles used on trail: Yes Other animals allowed on trail: Dogs on leashes</p>
