

# Orientation Packet

Welcome riders! The following packet will help first time riders all the way up to established horsemen and women learn the basics of our horse program here at Rancho de los Caballeros.

## Importance of Punctuality

Being on time for your ride is a very crucial part of the functionality of the corral. To ensure that no rides leave the corral late, cutting the ride short, we ask that all guests be ready to mount your horse at the scheduled arrival time for each and every ride.

For the **morning rides** beginner/walking rides must be at the corral, ready to ride no later than **9:15am**, intermediate riders must be ready to ride no later than **9:30am** and advanced riders must be ready to ride no later than **9:45am**.

**Afternoon riders** must be at the corral and ready to ride no later than **2:00pm**

All rides must return to the corral by 12pm and 4pm and to provide you with the best quality ride, we advise that sunblock be applied before arriving, bathroom breaks are taken prior to leaving your room and any other necessary action be done before arriving at the corral.

## What to Wear

Attire is very important when riding or just being around horses. The following is a list of clothing items necessary for our program.

- Long pants, preferably jeans to protect your legs from sunburn, bug bites, cacti and saddle chaffing.
- Close toed shoes. Absolutely **no** flip flops or sandals while riding. Hiking boots are acceptable but not recommended because of the large tread.
- Long sleeve shirts are best to protect you from sunburn and cacti but short sleeve and tank tops are also acceptable. Jackets may be tied around your waist or on saddles.
- If wearing a ball cap, cowboy hat or visor, be sure it is secured tightly on your head or has a stampede string. Ill-fitting hats are not permitted on the ride.
- Headphones are not allowed while riding.
- Rain jackets are encouraged for rainy days but plastic ponchos will not be permitted.
- Guests are not permitted to wear spurs on ranch horses.
- Helmets are provided at the corral. They are not required but recommended. Be sure it is fitted properly. A snug fit is better than a loose fit and you should be able to fit 2 fingers under the chin strap.

## How to Act

Horses are very intelligent animals and are aware of a person's emotions. Despite being very large animals, horses are flight animals and can sometimes get scared of certain behaviors. Here are some dos and don'ts of how to behave around the corral and around our horses.

- No running or screaming, this may frighten the horses
- Do not walk behind a horse
- Pet them on the neck or shoulders. Horses are biologically claustrophobic animals and not all of them may like having their face petted.
- If you bring down a treat for the horses let the wranglers know and we will help you feed them in a bucket and not by hand.

## What to Bring

This activity doesn't require you to bring much but certain items are preferred to have with you while riding. Anything you bring down to the corral that you do not wish to take with you on a horse may be left in the tack room and retrieved when you return from your ride.

- Water. We have a spot on the saddle to keep water with you while riding.
- Sunblock may be brought with you on the ride but it is recommended you apply it **before** arriving for your ride.
- Cell phones may be brought on the ride in case of emergencies. It is also encouraged to take pictures but be sure it is stowed away in your saddle bag when not in use. Phone calls are not permitted on rides.
- A good attitude! We want everyone on our rides to have a great experience and to walk away with lasting memories.

## Levels of Rides

Rancho de los Caballeros prides itself in offering a very inclusive and diverse riding program starting at ages 4 and up. Listed below are the most popular rides we have available on a daily basis.

- Beginner/Slow & Scenic Ride – Great for beginners or for guests just looking to take a leisurely stroll through the desert. Minimal to no experience needed for this walking ride. For ages 7 and up.
- Intermediate Rides – Riders must be comfortable posting the trot for the intermediate ride. Guests will also be taken on some trails with steeper or more rocky terrain. Recommended for riders ages 7 and up.
- Advanced Rides – For experienced horsemen and women. Riders must be able to post a trot and comfortably lope on a horse while maintaining balance and control of the horse. Not recommended for riders who have never loped on a horse before.

- Team Penning – (Fridays only) No experience needed for team penning as you'll have wranglers to help instruct you. Guests may walk and trot their horse in the arena but loping is prohibited for your safety and the safety of our horses. Recommended for ages 9 and up.

Other types of activities that we offer for ages 4 and older include:

- Ring Rides – Great for ages 4 and up who aren't quite old enough yet to hit the trail, your little one can hop on one of our slower horses to be lead around the corral.
- Corral Lessons – For kids who aren't old enough yet to get out on the trail or for kids wanting to learn the basics on reining, stopping and going before the big trail ride, the corral lessons are a great starter course for ages 4 to 8.
- Combs & Tack – Guests who are looking to learn the more technical side of horses can come down to the corral and get a Horse 101 lesson from one of our wranglers where you'll learn basic horse anatomy, how to properly groom the horse and parts of the saddle.

Please check with the corral for weekly schedules and any schedule changes that might occur.

### **Ride Length**

Every morning our ride will last approximately 2 hours. Monday through Saturday we offer afternoon rides that last approximately 1.5 hours with Friday being an exception for team penning. Arizona is known for having one of the world's harshest climates and is known to get well into the 90's in the fall and spring. Temperatures can plummet during the winter months and it has been known to snow. Be sure you are aware of weather conditions on the day of your ride and plan accordingly. Prepare yourself by drinking of plenty of water on hot days and bundling up on the cold days. Guest safety is our number 1 priority.

### **Horse and Rider Matchup**

Our experienced crew take into account several different variables to ensure that you get the perfect equine partner! Below are what we take into account when matching you up with your horse. All of these factors play a big role in deciding which horse is right for you. Please note, we do have a weight limit of 260lbs to ensure the safety of our guests and our horses. Please call the head wrangler for further information.

- Rider's height and weight
- Rider's ability and experience
- Rider's age
- Horse's height
- Horse's personality
- Horse's age

**We can't wait to see you on the trail!**