



# Northern Horse & Mule Harness Association

## WAGON TREK Drive / Ride Guidelines

NHMHA provides the following Guidelines and information in order to ensure the safety and enjoyment for everyone during the Wagon Trek. Please acknowledge these Guidelines.

### General

- Release & Indemnity must be read and completed (signed) by all participants and/or guardians.
- All participants under 19 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a Release & Indemnity signed by their parent or guardian.
- There are no refunds for cancellations after registration deadline unless agreed to by the executive.
- A Trail Meeting will be held each morning at the firepit at 10:00am, please attend.
- Participants please sign in and pay any balance of unpaid entries at the 10:00am Trail Meeting at the Firepit.
- Daily Drive/Ride starts at 11:00am.



### Campsite

- A main Campfire area will be set up near the Potluck site.
- BQ's and propane campfires are allowed at individual campsites.
- Portable toilets will be available on site.
- There are no hookups. Generators should be used with consideration for your neighbours.
- If you have a talent to entertain with song, musical instruments or storytelling, share it at the campfire!!!
- Participants will be responsible for leaving their campsite area clean; manure and hay should be removed or broken up and spread, depends on location. No garbage left behind.

### Animals

- Dogs must be kept under control at all times.
- All animals should be conditioned to participate in a 15 to 20 km route.
- Shoes/Boots are recommended on most treks but check with the Activities Director.
- Cruelty or abuse of any animal by any person will not be tolerated.
- Each person is responsible for their animal's condition, care, containment, water and feed.

### Other Safety Guidelines

- All participants must think **Safety First**. This means that
  - teams being driven or saddle horses/mules being ridden should be properly trained and under control by capable persons at all times.
  - All equipment (harness, vehicles & tack) should be in good repair.
- There will be a first aid kit on site/on the trail. Location will be identified at the 10:00am Trail Meeting.
- For Rider safety, appropriate riding boots/attire should be worn. A helmet is recommended, but mandatory for participants under 19 who are riding horseback.
- Never start to hitch a horse to a vehicle without having the reins fastened to the bridle.
- Drivers must be seated and reins in hand before loading or unloading passengers.
- Never take the bridle off while the horse is still attached to the vehicle.
- Don't tie harnessed horses to a tree if not hooked in to their double-tree. If one goes to one side of the tree, the other can be dragged down and under the wagon. Yes, This Has Happened!

## On the Trail

- The Trail Boss will be heading up the daily drive/ride. The Trail Boss will be identified to participants at the 10:00am Trail Meeting.
- Start time for the Drive/Ride will be 11:00am. Please be harnessed or saddled and ready.
- Lunch will be approximately the half way point of the drive/ride on Saturday/Sunday. Monday lunch is back at camp.
- Arrival back to camp is usually about 4:00pm, but on Monday about 2:00pm.
- Courtesy should be observed on the trail.
- Call out to pass and obtain permission before passing a teamster.
- Never ride up quickly beside a wagon unannounced.
- Riders will pass wagons/carts at a walk and not increase gait until well ahead.
- Drivers/Riders must maintain a safe distance between vehicles.
- There will be a rider in front of and at the rear of the group, each with a handheld radio.
- Keep up with drivers/riders ahead of you, wait for drivers/riders behind you.
- When travelling on a busy roadway or passing other campsites/residences dogs should be in a wagon, walked on a leash or under control with a rider at a safe distance.
- If you need to leave the group for any reason please notify the Trail Boss, or the rider in front or rider in the rear so they know what is going on.
- Nobody starts on the trail until everyone is ready to go.
- Potluck suppers are at 6:30pm unless otherwise stated.

*Thank you for paying heed to these Guidelines.*

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**“HARNESSES PULLS US TOGETHER!”**



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