

2025 Trail Ride Rules & Etiquette

Thank you for registering for the **Spring Trail Ride on Saturday, April 5, 2025**. We're looking forward to a great day of riding the Empire Ranch! Please read the following important information:

In order to participate, each rider must have on file (**by Friday March 31, 2025**) a signed **Release of Liability Agreement** form and a **Registration** form. Complete on-line and email to admin@empireranchfoundation.org or send those forms with payment to the Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637. *Download form at* <http://www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/trail-ride/>

If you're renting a horse, please be at the Ranch **at least one hour** prior to the ride departure. If you're bringing your own horse, please be at the Empire Ranch, ready to ride, **one half hour** prior to departure. We're riding as they did long ago – rain or shine! Please dress accordingly (please see #10 for more information). Water is provided to all riders throughout the ride.

Questions? Please call, Faith Boice, Administrator, ERF message line: 888-364-2829; email: admin@empireranchfoundation.org

Ride Etiquette

1. The Trail Boss has the ultimate authority on any Empire Ranch Foundation ride. *This is for the safety of all riders.*
2. **Liability waiver form must be signed in advance of the day of the ride.**
3. Any rental horses must be booked through Empire Ranch Foundation. Outside rental horses are not permitted on the trail ride.
4. For individuals bringing their own horses, stallions are not allowed, stay with the group.
5. Riders must be at least eight years old; 8-12 years old must wear helmets. Parent or guardian must accompany riders under 18 yrs of age at all times.
6. Helmets are recommended for all. For those renting horses from the Empire Ranch Foundation, please note on your registration form whether you want a helmet.
7. Horses must be kept at a walk.
8. Be courteous to others around you. Control your horse. Unruly horses will affect the behavior of other horses and riders, especially if they do not have much experience.
9. Horses that kick must have a red ribbon attached to their tails.
10. Recommended attire: long sleeve shirt, pants, brimmed hat and closed-toed shoes. **All hats must have a stampede strap to keep hats from falling off.**
11. Saddles are required; no bareback riders or bareback pads permitted; no double riding.
12. ERF will not provide, nor encourage, consumption of alcohol during any of the rides.
13. In the event a rider needs/wants to leave the group for any reason, they must inform the Trail Boss. (Good trail etiquette also demands that the group stop when a rider needs to dismount for whatever reason.)
14. No dogs on the trail ride; dogs in camp must be on a leash and kept away from food service area.
15. Above all, be courteous to all, and enjoy your ride at the Empire Ranch!