



CHALLENGE AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITY

RIDEABLE/PACK ANIMAL TRIPS

Many locations in Oregon allow riding or pack stock. These activities allow youth participants to experience more than just the show ring and may foster life-long habits and hobbies. They also teach and reinforce Leave No Trace¹ principals that protect the environment.

Veterinary assistance is not an option when animals are more than an hour from the trailer. Pre-trip education is the best way to assure that an emergency situation can be handled, if it occurs. Knowing animals vital signs are key to knowing if an animal is in distress. Knowing the “normal” temperature, pulse and respiration rates are basic functions to assessing an animal’s condition. When distressed animals are not cared for in an appropriate manner and time frame, the animal’s health is at risk. Knowing common signs of distress, carrying basic first aid supplies for your animal and knowing how to use the supplies are keys to a successful trip.

- Have a list of minimal clothing and gear that each participant carries with them. Check to make sure participants actually have it with them. Having a practice pack day at least one week before the trip can help assure youth will be prepared properly.
- Bring food and water for participants and stock or assure that water is available. Do not allow participants to drink untreated water.
- Research route and area to make certain terrain is accessible.
- Know the symptoms of, and remedies for, dehydration, exhaustion of participants and stock. Check for symptoms at regular intervals.
- Be familiar with evacuation routes and techniques in case of an emergency.
- Carry emergency food, clothing, and shelter.
- Repair kits may also include: wire, tools, leather, hole-punch, pliers, tape, etc.
- Be aware of weather-specific access and travel considerations.
- Check weather forecast for the area. Within 48 and then 24 hours of beginning a trip.
- Check for location Permit Requirements.
- Does the parking area/trail head require permits?
- Evaluate each driver’s experience & comfort driving with a stock trailer.
- Do volunteer drivers have OSU Driver Authorization?
- Check requirements for certified feed.
- Teach proper methods for safely securing stock while on the trail and out-of-doors.
- Practice LNT¹ for travel, camping and waste control.

For overnight pack trips, review the BACKPACKING AND BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL section to address tents/shelters, handling food, etc.

References: 1. Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org