



Equestrian Guidelines



- Riders may arrive any time after 9:00 AM, but must be back to the Banco Bonito Staging Area (BBSA) by 6:00 PM to prepare for departure by 6:30 PM. Feel free to ask the staff or volunteer trail monitors for assistance in planning your ride according to how much time you have.
- All participants ride at their own risk. According to the New Mexico Equine Liability Act:
There are inherent risks to participants and observers involved in all activities with equine animals due to the propensity of an equine animal to kick, bite, shy, buck, stumble, bolt, rear, trample, be unpredictable or collide with other animals, objects or persons. Warning: New Mexico state law provides that no person, corporation or partnership is liable for personal injuries to or for the death of a rider (or other participant) that may occur as a result of the behavior of equine animals while engaged in any equine activities, and that the rider (or other participant) agrees to engage in the equine activity at his own risk.
- No stallions are permitted on the Preserve: Many stallions are unruly around mares that could be in estrus. People and horses are at risk of getting hurt, no matter how skilled the horse handler is, and this restriction has everyone's safety in mind.
- Riders must be in control of their horse at all times.
- Riders should not ride double except for an adult/child combination.
- Youth riders (16 and under) are required to wear helmets.
- Please only bring hay or alfalfa pellets to reduce the spread of non-native seed into the preserve.
- Remove all manure from around trailer and haul home.
- Please notify the trail monitor or a Trust employee as quickly as possible if you lose your horse.
- Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.
- Trail monitors may be riding the trails to ensure the safety and adherence of rules by everyone.
- Please practice "leave no trace" ethics and pack out all trash
- If no facilities are nearby, all human solid waste must be deposited at least 200 feet from water or trails. Solid waste must be deposited in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, covered, and disguised. Toilet paper and other hygiene products must be packed out. This is a good use for waterproof zipper bags.
- Please leave artifacts of the Preserve undisturbed for future riders/visitors to enjoy. This includes antler sheds and obsidian (antler sheds are sold at our gift shop, and like the other merchandise, all proceeds go to help the Trust's programs).
- Pets may not accompany horses and riders. Only service animals are allowed on the Preserve's trails. Please do not leave unattended animals in your vehicle or trailer.
- Never approach wildlife. This can be dangerous for you, others, and the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. Running cattle and disturbing wildlife is a serious offense.
- No camping or fires will be permitted, unless part of our overnight camping program, certain dates only. See staff or website for more details.
- No smoking on the Preserve except inside your own personal vehicle.
- Please come prepared for various weather conditions; rain gear, sun screen, bug spray etc. (If you have an allergy to bees, please be prepared, bring your EPI-pen and notify someone of where it is located.)
- The Valles Caldera Trust reserves the right to refuse access to any person for any reason at any time.

Thank you for your cooperation! Have a safe and enjoyable hike!

For information on our many other programs that the Valles Caldera National Preserve offers, please visit our website at www.vallescaldera.gov or call toll free 1-866-382-5537.