

## Trail Etiquette

1. Stay on the designated trails - Going off trail causes erosion problems and could force land managers to close trails that we have fought so hard to keep open and negatively impacts our ability to open new trails.
2. Stay out of the mud - Evaluate trail conditions before riding, if conditions are such that you are going to damage the trails by riding them - then wait. It might be an inconvenience not to be able to ride when you want to now - but it will ultimately save us work later - and help keep the trails open. Remember that there is a lot of volunteer labor which goes to maintaining the trail systems in Ohio - and there is only so much time/money to go around. If there are not enough resources to maintain them properly then they will be in danger of being closed. Don't create tomorrow's problem by riding when you shouldn't today.
3. Control your pets - Dogs must be on a leash in state parks. Pets should be under control at all times.
4. Be considerate of other trail riders -All trail riders are not created equal. Some riders have more experience/skill than others. Do not put other riders at risk by assuming that they can control a situation that you create. Make sure that all riders in the group are mounted up before leaving. When meeting on a trail - stay to the right. Proceed single file on crowded trails. Avoid cantering on busy trails. Do not lope past other riders.
5. Be considerate of other trail users - Horses should have the right of way when meeting hikers or bicyclists on the trail, however you may meet someone who is not aware of the rules of etiquette or the nature of horses. Ask other trail users to make their presence known to the horse by talking (letting the horse know that they are indeed "human"). All people in the party should step off to the same side of the trail to give the horse room to pass. Make sure that the horse has seen the other users. Proper trail etiquette is based on common sense and safety for all concerned. Sometimes it may be safer for the horse to yield rather than the other way around. Be cordial, use your best judgement, and communicate with those involved.
6. Respect the environment - Pack out what you pack in and pick up after yourself on the trail and at the trail-head. Leave the natural environment natural for the next group to enjoy.