

# TRAIL RIDER'S CHECKLIST

## DAY RIDE

### Pre-trip Planning

1. Acquire trail map(s), and talk to other riders that know the area
2. Select trail appropriate for the expectations of your group
3. Select trail difficulty and length that is safest for the least experienced horse and rider
4. Select trails that avoid high mountain areas during afternoon lightning storm seasons
5. Precondition both yourself and your stock for the challenges of the trip
6. Let a responsible person know your trip plans, i.e. places, dates

### Preparing Stock

1. Condition your stock for water crossings, trail hazards, trip length and altitude
2. Identify stock pecking orders and personality traits that others should know about
3. Train stock (and yourself) to mount from either side when in steep country
4. Accustom your horse to saddle bags before hitting the trail

### Saddles and Tack

1. Saddle should be ridged with breast collar attached to "D" rings for mountain riding
2. Consider adding a crupper or britchin for a horse with poor withers or round belly.

### Saddle Equipment and Accessories

1. Saddlebags should be as small as possible, balanced and not overfilled
2. Saddle strings, 3 ft. long, should be available to secure a coat and/or rain gear
3. Equine first aide kit

### Personal Gear

1. Western hat or safety helmet
2. Long sleeve shirt
3. Handkerchief or scarf (silk)
4. Multipurpose knife
5. Flashlight
6. Dark glasses
7. First aide kit
8. Insect repellent
9. Canteen