

# Trail Etiquette

December 20, 2015

What is the proper thing to do on the trail?

When you are HIKING, BIKING or RIDING a HORSE and you:

- Hike, Bike or Ride a Horse Cross Country
  1. Use established trails and avoid cross country travel where it is discouraged or prohibited;
  2. If cross country travel is allowed and necessary, avoid making new trails and try to stay on one set of footprints when traveling in a group; and
  3. Try to make your route invisible.
- Pack in a Lunch and or Water
  1. Leave **NO** trace – **EVERYTHING** you bring in, should always be taken out with you;
  2. ALWAYS carry a trash bag;
  3. If you must smoke, make sure you are not in a “no smoking” area, and please pick up your butts and bag them;
  4. Bag and carry out toilet paper and feminine hygiene products; and
  5. If you see trash/garbage left by others, if you have room in your pack/bag, please bring it out with you.
- Encounter other trail traffic, Hikers, Bikers Or Horse & Riders
  1. Horse traffic ALWAYS has the right of way;
  2. Hikers have right of way over Bikers;
  3. Bikers should give right of way to all other traffic, unless specifically given the opportunity to pass by other trail traffic;
  4. Uphill traffic has the right of way and you should always yield to the uphill traffic; and
  5. Always chat it up.
- Encounter a Rider on a Horse
  1. Chat it up as soon as you notice the Rider as this makes the Rider and Horse aware of your presence and ask if you are in a good location. This also lets horse know your are human and friendly;
  2. Stop in a visible (to riders and horses) safe location **BELOW** the trail - stopping early is best vs. hiking right up to the riders; and
  3. Hold any backpacks, walking poles, or anything else close to you. Horses sometimes could react to backpacks etc.
- Treat Human Waste Properly
  1. You should ALWAYS bury all human waste 6 inches deep and 200 feet from any water source or trail;
  2. ALWAYS pack out used toilet paper and feminine hygiene products; and
  3. NEVER burn used toilet paper or other waste.
- Respect Wildlife
  1. Use binoculars for long-distance viewing;
  2. NEVER play or bath in any desert water source unless it is specifically approved by signage or trail information;
  3. If you encounter bighorn sheep, stay well away from them and below their positions – do not chase or otherwise spook them; and
  4. Only observe, never touch wildlife, even if they appear to be injured.