

Qualifications for GRA-TRAILS Scout

Description of an experienced trail scout-

The trail riding scout provides many services to the trail riders and to the public. Scout's duties may involve many of the following but is not limited to these skills.

1. Be able to enforce GRA-TRAILS' "on trail" guidelines
2. Be able to identify trail and rode hazards
3. Be able to assist with stressed riders and unpredictable horses
4. Be able to assist with medical attention as needed by either horse or rider
5. Have the skill to lead, be able to be assertive if needed, and be a "seasoned" diplomat
6. Focus on the safety of riders, the horses, and the public as a primary responsibility

Communication Skills-

1. Be able to communicate with people of various backgrounds, personalities, and horse skill levels
2. Be able to redirect people's behavior in a kind, yet firm, and responsible manner
3. Be able to encourage riders to modify their behavior and that of their horse, as needed for the safety of all riders

Personality Traits-

1. Compassionate-(*a sincere desire to help riders of all experience levels, have an enjoyable ride*)
2. Empathetic- (*to place one's self into the riders situation at the challenging moment*)
3. Conscientious- (*be self disciplined, and able to respond to an incident with a type of planned behavior rather than spontaneously*)
4. Congenial- (*able to interact positively with others*)

Reliable-

1. Must be present for the majority of scheduled rides
2. Must be time conscious related to structured ride schedules
3. Notify the lead scout or trail boss as soon feasible if you can not attend the next scheduled ride

Potential Scout will provide

1. Horse with the stamina and skill level to meet the physical demands of specific ride, schedule, and terrain
2. Horse having the calm personality to negotiate traffic, and handle stressed horses and/or riders, and to respond to the potential scout's cues
3. A willingness to follow the guidelines designated for scouts and the directives given by the leadership
4. Safety flag on a short staff with weatherproof material (fluorescent red or orange)
5. Use safe and dependable tack
6. Long sleeve shirts (scout designated colors) monogrammed by and at the expense of GRA-TRAILS)
7. Appropriate foul weather gear

GRA-TRAILS will provide the approved scout with

1. A mobile two-way communication radio
2. A trail Riders Association Badge (Shield)

Continued Training and Education

1. Scouts must be available to improve necessary scouting skills as directed by the leadership
2. Scouts must be available to take part in formal training provided by GRA-TRAILS organization

Qualifications for "Reserve Scout"

Must meet the the previous guidelines with the following exceptions)

1. (Under Reliability) Instead of committing to a year's schedule of ride days (approximately 19 days) the reserve scout will commit to 7 days chosen by the reserve scout.
2. (Reserve scout will provide long sleeve shirt of only one color (green) to be monogrammed at the expense of the GRA-TRAILS Organization

Reserved Scout's commitment

1. The scout will agree to scout on 7 previous arranged dates. If there is a need for a reserve scout on the agreed date, the lead scout or trail boss will inform the reserve scout at the earliest possible date prior to the ride
2. On the day of the ride, the reserve scout will be given the assigned duties, a badge (shield) and a mobile radio. **The shield and mobile radio are to be returned to the lead scout or trail boss at the end of the designated ride.**
3. The reserve scout is to carry out all assigned duties and accepts the same responsibilities as a scout.
4. The riders are expected to respond to the reserve scouts in the same manner as a scout.

Qualifications for "Junior Scout"

Guidelines

1. The potential junior scout must be 14 years old (Minimum age limit)
2. The potential junior scout must have a **on horse riding parent or legal guardian on each specific trail ride** while the junior scout is performing the assigned duties.
3. The potential junior scout must meet all the previous qualifications for a senior scout with agreed on modifications (lead scout and-or trail boss) based upon the junior scout's age and experience.
4. The junior scout assigned duties will be in areas of lowest risk of danger to the junior scout or riders
5. The junior scout will be assigned a senior scout as a mentor for each day.
6. The riders are to respond to the junior scout in the same manner as a scout.

It should be understood the above guidelines are to serve as goals for our potential scout and experience scouts as they attempt to improve their skills. This is to accomplished through continued gained experience, training and dedication.

It is the over-all desire of all scouts and the leadership of GRA-TRAILS to provide the safest environment for our riders, our animals, and the public in which we can provide.

*Trail Ride Year (Begins 1st.week October and ends the following calendar year in July)