

Triangle X Ranch

Horseback Riding Program

Essential Eligibility Criteria

1. At Triangle X our top priority is making sure our guests have a memorable and pleasurable riding vacation. Open communication is a vital part of ensuring we can provide each guest with the experience they have been dreaming of. We will do our best to present an accurate description of what can be expected, and in return we ask that our guests be honest with us regarding information pertaining to their safety.
2. We ask that each guest be upfront and honest with us about his or her age, weight, and riding ability.
 - a. This is for not only your safety but also that of other guests, wranglers and our horses.
 - b. The upper weight limit for riding horses is 250 pounds. This limit is imposed for the safety of our horses, and also for the safety of the rider. Exceptions to this policy are only made in rare circumstances.
 - c. Presenting a conservative report in regards to your riding ability is often times the way to go, as the terrain we ride in is typically unlike what guests have experienced in the past.

Essential Eligibility Criteria - to minimize the risk associated with riding horses, guests should be capable of the following numbered criteria (the subparagraphs are meant to help explain the Essential Eligibility Criteria:

1. Ability to mount your horse with the aid of one wrangler (and mounting block).
 - a. This often requires riders to be able to put full body weight on their left leg, and then swing their right leg up and over the back of the saddle. A certain amount of leg strength and flexibility is certainly required.
 - b. Wrangler assistance may include hand/arm holding for balance, providing a shoulder for support and aiding in the location of suitable areas for mounting.
 - c. Once out on the trail, there are no mounting blocks, steps, etc. While your wrangler will do their best to locate a suitable mounting device,

the options are often limited to (potentially wet/slippery/unstable) rocks, logs or embankments.

2. Ability to dismount your horse with the aid of one wrangler.
 - a. Once again some flexibility is necessary.
 - b. Riders may choose if they would like to step off of their horse onto the ground or take both feet out of the stirrups and slide off. In either case, leg/hip/back flexibility is needed.
3. Ability to walk unaided and with balance over various, often uneven or exposed, terrain.
 - a. Some of our break spots are located in areas with uneven, rocky and vegetation covered terrain, and the ability to safely maneuver these obstacles is vital.
 - i. No hiking is generally planned for, but at times walking short distances through afore-mentioned terrain is necessary.
4. Ability to perceive and follow either verbal or non-verbal direction given by your wrangler in all situations, including high stress or potentially dangerous situations.
 - a. Horseback riding is an incredibly fun and rewarding experience, when performed in as safe a manner as possible.
 - b. No matter the amount of previous horse experience you have, we require that you listen to and respect the opinion and direction of our wranglers and abide by our riding policies. Our wranglers are familiar with both the horses and the area you will be riding in; it is crucial to follow their direction especially in high stress situations.
5. Demonstrate basic control of your horse before leaving the corral.
 - a. The ability to properly hold the reins and coordinate steering your horse is important. Some hand and arm strength is required, especially in the event that you need cue a nervous horse to slow down or stop.
6. Exhibit enough core strength and balance in order to maintain safe and correct mounted posture before leaving the corral.
 - a. Horses are flight animals, and are therefore capable of sudden/quick movements.
 - b. Although our horses are expected to pass rigorous training before being deemed ready for guests, we want all riders to be physically capable of maintaining their seat in the unlikely event that their horse were to spook.

7. Ability to independently remain adequately fed, hydrated, and properly dressed so as to avoid environmental injuries such as dehydration, sunburn, heat related illness, and frostbite.
 - a. Additionally, all riders will be expected to wear appropriate riding gear such as boots with a heel and long pants.

The above criteria, if not met, can disqualify a person from participating in horseback riding with Triangle X Ranch. The criteria exist for your own safety, and that of all other participants, wranglers, and the horses. None of the criteria are meant to discriminate on the basis of any physical or mental disability, and are applied uniformly to all potential participants, irrespective of the presence or absence of any disability. Triangle X Ranch is committed to making reasonable modifications to any trip to accommodate persons with a disability, so long as they do not fundamentally alter the nature of the activity.