

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 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 maneuver these obstacles is vital.
 - i. No hiking is generally planned for, but at times, walking short distances through the 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.
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 if you need to cue a nervous horse to slow down or stop.
6. Exhibit enough core strength and balance to maintain 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 if their horse were to spook.
7. Ability to independently remain adequately fed, hydrated, and properly dressed to avoid environmental illnesses such as dehydration, sunburn, heat stroke, or 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 is meant to discriminate based on any physical or mental disability, and they 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.