Tips From Veteran Trail Riders
Organized trail rides can be a relaxing way for you and others to enjoy the natural beauty of open space, woods, and limbs from the trail. Whether you are riding your own horse, or are provided as a guide, awareness of safe trail courtesies is essential to having an enjoyable ride.

Maryland Horse Industry Board
Recreational Trails Program

What To Wear On The Ride
• A cotton or mesh fly mask can provide added protection against bugs.
• Bring along at least 3 gallons of water and a water bottle for your horse. Most parks have a “no-pilot policy” if the trails are wet.
• If you are riding a young horse, if possible, let him carry a small backpack with treats. This helps them to acclimate to carrying weight.
• Be sure to have a halter or lead rope that will allow you to walk or trot in a straight line.
• Halters can be worn with a bridle for easy lead-up and lead-down.
• Be sure to have good riding boots on for your horse as well.
• Keep all horses together. If you are the last horse, don’t hold back so that you can catch up to the group. Many horses will at times see a group of other horses and want to race to catch up.
• If you encounter a low branch, hole on the trail, or poisonous plant, spray your horse with fly spray.
• Keep all horses together. If you are the last horse, don’t hold back so that you can catch up to the group. Many horses will at times see a group of other horses and want to race to catch up.
• If you need to dismount during the trail, look for a safe area to mount from the hill. Just a few inches can make the difference between a comfortable or uncomfortable mounting.
• If you are leading, give a hand signal (put your hand in the air) to let others know that you are slowing down.

MD. Trail Riding Organizations

A Maryland Horse Industry Board Recreation Flyer

What To Take With You
Use a saddlebinder or front of your saddle to carry fresh items: 
- Bit and bridle
- Blanket
- Lead rope
- Water bottles or canteen

What Equipment For Your Horse
Trail Stewardship
- Trail rules vary by trailhead, so read and agree before you start your ride. Trail rules vary by trailhead, so read and agree before you start your ride. Trail rules vary by trailhead, so read and agree before you start your ride.
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- Bit and bridle
- Blanket
- Lead rope
- Water bottles or canteen

Camping With Horses
Maryland Parks and Forests that permit camping with horses:
- Campers
- Hikes
- Picnics
- Tents
- Trail Rides

Other Types of Trail Riding
- If you are exploring a new trail, walk the horse on a lead rope to familiarize him with the trail before beginning.
- If you are leading, give a hand signal (put your hand in the air) to let others know that you are slowing down.
- Be sure to have a halter or lead rope that will allow you to walk or trot in a straight line.
- Halters can be worn with a bridle for easy lead-up and lead-down.
- Keep all horses together. If you are the last horse, don’t hold back so that you can catch up to the group. Many horses will at times see a group of other horses and want to race to catch up.
- If you need to dismount during the trail, look for a safe area to mount from the hill. Just a few inches can make the difference between a comfortable or uncomfortable mounting.
- If you are leading, give a hand signal (put your hand in the air) to let others know that you are slowing down.
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