



FACILITY RULES

The Son and Reins Ranch is committed to providing a safe facility and environment for all participants, volunteers, staff and visitors. These “Facility Rules” are meant for your safety, the safety of others, and the safety of all animals. It’s hard to have fun, learn and grow when we’re hurt, so we thank you for abiding by these guidelines.

This is a family-friendly environment. No inappropriate language, drugs, alcohol or unacceptable behavior will be tolerated. We retain the right and discretion to immediately dismiss anyone from this facility.

When participants arrive, they are asked to please wait for an adult volunteer before petting the horses through the fence, giving them treats and before going into the pasture.

You’re welcome to bring horse treats (including apples, carrots and peppermints), but please leave them in the barn until the end of the session. Participants are to feed treats from a bucket only, not from their hand.

Anybody entering the horse pasture must have on closed-toed shoes.

Shorts and tank tops are fine to wear so long as all undergarments are covered.

Please come prepared with water bottles, bug spray, sunscreen and a hat—the hat is important because we ask that you do not wear sunglasses when working with the horses.

Whoever brings the young person to the Ranch must stay on the premises while the session is taking place. An exception can be made for youth leaders.

Waiting parents and siblings **MUST** remain outside the pasture fence, unless the parent has completed an application and background check. Siblings must be supervised at all times.

No volunteer and participant should ever be alone and out of sight of others.

BASIC SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

... in no particular order...

Never go under the horse's neck to get to its other side.

Always hold the lead rope so that it does not wrap around your hand (or *any* body part) and make sure it does not drag on the ground.

Everybody must wear a helmet when riding, and wear jeans and shoes/boots with at least a ¼ inch heel when riding with a saddle.

When you have a horse at the hitching post, just loosely drape the lead rope over the post, do not tie them.

When getting on a horse, always make sure an adult or youth leader is holding the horse and you are using the mounting block.

When dismounting, swing one foot over the horse, lay down with your bellybutton in the middle of the saddle or if bareback, bellybutton on top line/ spine of horse, take your other foot out of the stirrup and slide down with both feet landing on the ground *at the same time*.

ALWAYS pay attention to the horse's body language and respect what the horse is telling you! (ie- if a horse pins its ears flat back, that is a warning sign to back off. Volunteers will teach the participants how to correct the horse.)

For adult volunteers, please bring any concerns, problems, questions or suggestions directly to Sharron.

For all parents and participants, if you have any concerns, problems, questions or suggestions, feel free to bring them directly to Sharron, OR to an adult volunteer.

Now let's all be safe and have FUN!!