

RIDE INFORMATION
2025 CHIEF JOSEPH TRAIL RIDE
Sunday, July 20 – Saturday, July 26, 2025
Jackson, MT to Leadore, ID

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

All participants – please check that ApHC Trail Department webpage at www.appaloosa.com for the most current updates about the CJTR. This may include any changes that may affect you as you prepare for the ride.

Assembly Camp:

1. Camp opens Saturday at **NOON, July 19, 2025. DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THIS TIME!**
 - a. No meals or horse feed are provided until Sunday evening on July 20th. Participants must provide certified weed seed-free feed for their horses until the evening feeding on July 20th.
2. Assembly camp will be near Jackson, MT. Below are driving instructions on how to get to the 2025 Chief Joseph Trail Ride (CJTR) Assembly Camp.
 - a. Assembly Camp Location: Chief Joseph Ranch (Felton Ranch): 45.48697N - 113.60979W. You can Google Map this, just take the hyphen out.
 - b. From Wisdom to Assembly Camp: Take Highway 278 south to Twin Lakes Road (6.7 miles). Right on Twin Lakes Road and follow it to 945 (8.2 miles). Left onto 945 and follow it to camp (2 miles). Total about 17 miles.
 - c. From Dillon to Assembly Camp: South on I-15 (2.5 miles). Take exit 59 and turn right onto highway 278 (0.4 miles). Follow 278 through Jackson to Twin Lakes Road (58.6 miles). Left on Twin Lakes Road and follow it to 945 (8.2 miles). Left onto 945 and follow it to camp (2 miles). Total about 72 miles.

Fuel: Please top off your tanks in Dillon, MT or somewhere else very close prior to arriving in Assembly Camp.

Mosquitoes: Will be prevalent during the entire ride. Don't forget insect repellent for yourself and your horse.

Time Zone: Mountain Standard Time (MST).

Ride Type: Progressive. The camp moves daily. A caravan consisting of crew and private vehicles will be moved from one camp to the next while the riders are on the trail.

Check-in:

1. Upon arrival to Assembly Camp, please come to the registration station, sign in yourself and your horse and pick up your t-shirt and pin. You **MUST** be checked in by 5pm on Sunday, July 20th or you will **NOT** be allowed to ride on Monday, July 21st.
2. Please bring your horse's negative EIA (Coggins) test (**dated within the previous 12 months**), Health Certificate (**dated within the previous 30 days**), Declaration of Equine Fitness (**dated and signed by your veterinarian within the previous 30 days**) and original or a clear copy of each horse's Certificate of Registration for identification. Montana State Brand Inspectors may be present

when we are in the Montana camps and Idaho State Brand Inspectors may be present when we are in the Idaho camps. The State Veterinarian may also be on-site inspecting health paperwork. See the ApHC Trail Department webpage at www.appaloosa.com for the state-by-state rules for transporting your horse. **PLEASE ALSO BE AWARE OF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH STATE YOU ARE TRAVELING THROUGH!** *Note:* Be sure your vet uses your horse's full registered name on the horse paperwork. Barn names won't work since we have to match the horse to the Certificate of Registration and to the Health Certificate, Coggins and Declaration of Equine Fitness paperwork to make sure that the correct horse has the necessary health papers. If you are riding a non-ApHC horse, please bring your Certificate of Registration for your horse's breed registry. If you are riding a grade horse, then please bring some form of ownership or leasing proof. **It is recommended that you contact the Montana State Veterinary offices and Idaho State Veterinary offices directly with questions you may have relating to the requirements.**

3. For your horse health papers, you may need to provide the names of the towns nearest the location of the ride. The ride will start near Jackson, MT and end near Leadore, ID.
 - a. Horses that are coming from the state of Idaho, please use this address for your paperwork this year:
Jackson Hot Springs
108 Jardine Ave.
Jackson, MT 59736
 - b. Horse that are coming from any other state than Idaho, please use this address for your paperwork this year:
Chamber of Commerce
202 S. Railroad St.
Leadore, ID 83464

Vehicles:

1. There is a \$55 surcharge to bring a vehicle in the daily caravan of vehicles.
2. Private vehicles must have a separate driver and the driver must be a current ApHC member and pay the non-rider fee.
3. Crew members are not allowed to drive personal/private vehicles.

Parking at the Termination Camp:

1. There is no additional charge to park your vehicle at the termination camp for the entire week. We have a truck available to transport your gear from one camp to the next while you are riding the trail if you choose to not have a driver.

Preventing Weed Spread:

1. We are working with the Forest Service, BLM, and other government agencies to aid the prevention of weed spread to the pristine areas we will be visiting.
2. **All vehicles (including trailers) must be free of dirt and mud (weed seeds). All participants are to thoroughly wash your vehicle's undercarriage before arriving at the ride.** It is suggested you locate a commercial washing station along your way to the ride and get your vehicle clean. Our ride begins in a remote area where washing stations are typically not available. You must address this issue before arriving to Assembly Camp.

3. Also, please **feed your horse certified weed seed-free feed at least 72 hours before arrival** to clean out their system and only travel with certified weed seed-free feed in your trailer. Thank you!

Services/Facilities:

1. Camping is primitive. There will be no electricity or running water. Tenting is strongly recommended to reduce our footprint and the number of vehicles in camp. Trucks will be provided to transport gear. Camping in groups is a great idea if you're bringing a living quarters horse trailer or camper of any kind.
2. Potable water, portable toilets and a picket line will be provided.
3. A farrier, veterinarian and a physician will be available. Individuals utilizing the services of these professionals will be responsible for payment at the time services are rendered payable directly to the service provider. The medical form you provided with your application will be given to the ride physician and kept strictly confidential.
4. Bring your own solar shower bags (2 for each person recommended). Portable shower tents are recommended for privacy. This is not a requirement, just a recommendation.
5. Bring reusable water bottles. To reduce cost and to help us minimize environmental impact, individually bottled water will not be provided in camp. Please help us with our low impact initiatives and bring your own reusable water bottle to be refilled from the potable water source.

Meals:

1. Our first meal and first feed available for horses will be Sunday evening, July 20th; the last will be breakfast on Saturday, July 26th.

Guests:

1. Guests are welcome to attend at meals and evening programs. Cost for meals is \$15 for breakfast, \$10 for lunch and \$20 for dinner. Please pay the Ride Manager before entering the meal line.
2. Sorry, due to insurance requirements we cannot allow visitors to accompany us on "day rides" or stay overnight. If a person wishes to ride or attend longer than one evening, they must pay for an ApHC membership and submit a ride application with the adjusted fee; same for non-riders.

Horses:

1. See check-in procedures above.
2. Horses must be ApHC-registered Appaloosas to count towards awards. Those that are not, will not be counted towards ApHC horse awards. No stallions are allowed on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride. Horses must be 4 years old at the time of the ride. We understand that horse substitutions are sometimes necessary, so *if you are bringing a different horse than you originally stated on your application, please let us know at check-in so we can document it.*
3. In order for your horse to be eligible to receive lifetime awards for participating on the ride and/or for the horse to earn distance award mileage for the ride, you **MUST** provide the name and registration number of the horse to ApHC. It is your responsibility to ensure that ApHC has accurately represented your horse's participation on the ride. Please complete the ride application in its entirety to ensure recognition.

Horse Feed & Water:

1. Certified weed seed-free grass hay will be provided beginning Sunday evening, July 20th and ending Saturday morning, July 26th. We will dispense hay at a rate of 18 lbs/day per horse. Bales will be dispensed and it's the responsibility of the rider to portion hay to their horse at each feeding. There will likely be two hay deliveries from the supplier during the course of the ride. Or, you may receive both of your bales for the week on Sunday, July 20th at Assembly Camp. You can feed directly on the ground, but hay bags are best if feeding from your trailer. This will help prevent waste and keep the area cleaner. If you feed on the ground, you are responsible for cleaning up any leftover hay after your horse is finished. You will need to re-tie your bale for transport. If you have one, a bale bag or a heavy-duty trash bag will aid in transporting the remainder of your bale from one camp to the next. Please bring certified weed seed-free hay to feed prior to Sunday evening. Bring a permanent marker to label your tags and hay. You may bring and feed your own weed seed-free grain or supplements.
 - A. Are you taking your personal vehicle in the daily caravan? If so, we may need help transporting remaining bales from camp to camp. Any space you can provide would be appreciated. Please let us know if you have any available space.
2. There will be community water troughs set up in camp, and mid-day water stops for horses along the trail. Please bring a feed/water bucket for your horse. It is recommended to bring a collapsible water bucket for when you're on the trail.

Tying Your Horse:

1. Because of safety concerns, portable electric pens and portable panels are not allowed. A Picket Line will be provided. While in camp, horses must be tied to the picket lines or trailer tied. It is a good idea to bring a laminated card, printed with your horse's name, to tie onto the spot on the picket line you wish to reserve. Hole-punch the card and affix a cord to tie onto the picket ring. NOTHING else is allowed to be tied to the picket rings.
2. When tying in the vicinity of other horses, please leave enough space between each animal so that it prevents the horses getting tangled up or kicking each other. Every other ring should have a horse on opposite sides of the picket line. If your horse is competitive/dominant and may fight others, move them to an area free of other horses. Only allow enough slack in the rope to allow them to touch the ground with their nose. Any more rope than this provides the opportunity for them to tangle themselves. If you are not easily located, and your horse is risking injury to itself or another (as determined at the discretion of the picket line crew), the picket line crew will relocate your horse to a different spot on the picket line. If you notice your horse is not where you initially tied them, please check in with the picket line crew. No animals will be tied directly to trees in camp areas. Horses may be tied to a tree for a short period of time on the trail.

Horse Conditioning:

1. We will ride an *average* of 20 miles per day. A good rule of thumb for conditioning is that your horse should be ridden at least 10 miles 3 times per week by the time the ride starts (30 miles/week).
2. Please do not bring overweight or underweight horses. You should be able to feel the horse's ribs easily under the skin, but not see the ribs without touching the horse. If you cannot feel the ribs, the horse is overweight and prone to complications such as heat exhaustion and colic. Same for underweight horses, they will be more prone to complications such as heat exhaustion and colic. This is why the ApHC created the Declaration of Equine Fitness, to be sure that your vet has visibly seen and felt your horse and determined that it has met the requirements of the ApHC CJTR Declaration of Equine Fitness.

3. Please have hoof protection for your horse prior to arrival. This will be a very rocky ride in some areas. It is recommended to ride with shoes, or pads and shoes that have been put on within 2 weeks of the ride.

Preventing Colic – Keeping your horse hydrated:

1. When a horse is excited or stressed due to travel and exposure to a new environment, they may not drink as they normally do. Some horses use to drinking from a source at home may not drink from water sources on the trail, such as a stream. They need to learn that they can use these sources as well and you may need to practice this at home.
2. Never pass up water on the trail if you can help it. "Drink early, drink often." Frequent, smaller intakes of water are better than fewer larger intakes. Guzzling by a hot horse can itself lead to colic. But it's better to have water than not. An excited horse will be more relaxed and tend to drink if you have a buddy horse that stays with them. If they refuse to drink, try dismounting and loosening their girth. Relax for a bit to show them it's okay to take a breather.
3. Two good tests for dehydration:
 - a. Skin Pinch: pinch the skin on the shoulder. When properly hydrated it should snap back immediately. When dehydrated, the skin will stay puckered for longer periods.
 - b. Capillary Refill: Press on the gums with your thumb. Upon removal, the blanched area should return to the same color as the surrounding area immediately. The longer refilling takes, the more dehydrated your horse is.

Horse Sense:

1. Rider centered in the saddle. It is very hard on a horse to ride "askew" or off center. Staying balanced will make your equine partner's job a lot easier. Every so often, stand in the stirrups to take pressure off of their back. Monitor them while climbing and give them rests when needed, and keep your weight forward – over the withers – to keep the pressure off of their kidneys.
2. Preventing "Hot Spots": When arriving in camp after a day's ride, it is a good idea to leave the saddle on and let the horse stand and cool down. Loosen the girth but leave the saddle on for 15-30 minutes. This will help prevent "hot spots" and resulting sores that can occur when a rider immediately dismounts and unsaddles.
3. Be aware that there will be riders with varied levels of horse and trail experience, and horses with different levels of training. Try not to crowd other horses. If your mount has a tendency to kick at other horses, tying a red ribbon to your horse's tail will alert others. Flagging tape is available from the scouts. Please bring a solid and experienced mount, not one that does not mingle well with others. This is a time for enjoying yourself and your horse, not for training. There are too many horses, people and potential hazards for an untrained horse.

Rental Horses:

1. The ApHC does not provide or rent horses. All rented horses are done so through private persons.

Packing Your Saddle:

1. Load and tie all items such as saddle bags, camera bags, binoculars, slickers, etc. securely. If your horse should spook or stumble, items will flop around and this could spook your horse or the horse next to you even more. Please avoid this common cause of wrecks and injuries on the trail.

Horses in Camp:

1. Avoid areas congested with other horses or people. For safety's sake, horses should not be unattended for more than a few hours, except at night. Keep a close eye on them. They may become caught or tangled in some way, injure themselves or do ecological damage. If you capture a horse that has escaped during the night, tie them out of reach of other horses until the owner can be located. Using grazing hobbles is **NOT** permitted on ApHC trail rides since they have no way of restricting the horse from coming into contact with other horses, property, etc.

Awards:

1. A **400-mile Register of Merit** and **800-mile Superior Event Award** and a **1000-mile Medallion** are available for horses enrolled in the Distance Program. This ride provides the opportunity for an ApHC-registered Appaloosa to earn milage toward a Register of Merit for participating on ApHC-sponsored trail rides provided that the horse is enrolled in the ApHC Distance Program.
2. The **Chief Joseph Medallion** may be earned by a horse participating on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride for 10 consecutive years.
3. A **Thirteen Year Award** is available for horses that have attended that many years (they don't have to be consecutive participation).
4. In order for an owner's horse to gain credit toward any awards as a result of participating on the ride, it must be checked in and documented and must be entered in the Distance Program.
 - a. Enrollment in the Distance Program is currently a one-time \$60 fee per horse, good for the life of the horse. There is also an annual recording fee that is currently \$40 for every year after the first year of enrollment. See our website, www.appaloosa.com for enrollment forms, or contact us.
 - b. Horses must be enrolled in the Distance Program prior to earning credit for miles ridden. Miles are not awarded retroactively. See the 2025 ApHC Official Handbook for further rules.

Historical Presentations/Entertainment:

1. We will have a dance floor and great music for our enjoyment and dancing.
2. Historical Presentations are being organized with some amazing educational guest speakers.

Chief Joseph Trail Ride, Inc. Silent Auction:

1. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit "Chief Joseph Trail Ride, Inc." and they use these funds to go right back into the Chief Joseph Trail Ride itself. This nonprofit is NOT run by the ApHC. This is a nonprofit that has partnered with the ApHC to help put on this historical annual trail ride. Head to www.chiefjosephtrailride.org for more information on this nonprofit.

Alcohol:

1. Consumption is strictly prohibited while riding on the trail.

Smoking:

1. Smoking while on the trail is strictly prohibited.
2. Smoking in camp is permitted inside a vehicle with no combustible materials within 3 feet.

Fires:

1. No fires allowed; this includes barbeques, gas-powered fire pits or any other open flame.

Participants:

1. ALL participants must be ApHC members and 12 years of age or over.

Dogs:

1. Are allowed in camp if leashed (on 6 foot or shorter leash), controlled at all times by their owner or another adult assigned to the dog, like their driver. Dogs are NOT allowed on the trail. They are NOT allowed within 50 feet of the cook area nor the assembly/eating area.
 - a. Any dog in camp that may be considered a nuisance or threat to other campers or to livestock **will be required to be removed from camp by their owners.** The Ride Manager has the final determination regarding any negative actions by pets and will respond promptly to any complaints. Owners are responsible for researching and abiding by any state laws regarding the transporting of pets.
 - b. No intact male pets allowed on the Chief Joseph Trail Ride
 - c. Please see your 2025 CJTR Application to refer back to the "Dog and Pet Policy" that you initialed saying that "I understand the above rules regarding dogs and other pets."

Ride Conditions:

1. Rolling hills, steeper hills, grass lands, areas with lots of trees, and we will be crossing many water sources. There are rocky areas throughout the ride. We will be going up and down around 3,000 feet in elevation a few times during this year's ride. We will take breaks when needed.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Saturday, July 19th

Noon-7:00pm: Check-in at Assembly Camp (DO NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO NOON!!!)

- You must only bring certified weed seed-free hay into Assembly Camp. Please be prepared to show proof of certification if asked.

Sunday, July 20th

8:00am – 5:00pm: Check-in at Assembly Camp. All horse paperwork needs to be presented.

- 12:00pm: Caravan of vehicles leaving to Destination Camp
- 4:00pm: First Year riders or non-riders meeting at the dance floor
- 5:00pm: First hay available. Tag and tie/bag the remainder for following feedings.
- 5:00pm: Chief Joseph Trail Ride, Inc. Silent Auction opens.
- 6:00pm-7:00pm: First meal
- 7:00pm: Announcements/Orientation & Guest Speaker
- 8:30pm-10pm: Music and dancing

Monday, July 21st-Friday, July 25th:

- Riders: feed and water your horse first thing each morning before heading to breakfast.
- 6:00am-7:00am: Breakfast. Remember to pack your sack lunch for the trail! Lunches are provided by the cook crew or you can bring your own
- 7:00am: Tenters: please have your gear at the dance floor by this time, ready for loading into the truck
- 8:00am: Ride out each morning. The caravan of vehicles leaves as well.
- 6:00pm-7:00pm: Supper

- 7:00pm: Educational guest speakers & announcements. Awards one night and a fun fundraiser game night on one night.
- 8:30pm-10pm: Music and dancing

Saturday, July 26th:

- 6:00am-7:00am: Breakfast
- 9:00am: All horses MUST be off of the picket lines by this time
- 12:00pm NOON: Break camp and head out by 12pm NOON
- Extra hay (if any) will be sold at cost
- So long until next year, partner! Safe travels!

Private Property/Public Lands:

1. Some of our campsites will be on private property; and some of our route, as well. We will also ride across National Forest and other government agency property. Please be respectful in conduct and camp cleanliness. We strive to leave as little impact on the land as possible.
2. Please do not contact land owners with complaints. Please direct those issues directly to the ApHC office. We are only able to continue offering the ride each year due to the gracious support from private landowners. We certainly don't want to cause them to deny our request when we travel through their area in 13 years because of any hard feelings resulting from complaints. Likewise, we should be respectful of their boundaries/rules for use of their land and do everything possible to minimize impact on their property. These same policies can be applied to the use of USFS, BLM and government-owner land. The ride is wholly dependent upon the cooperative efforts of the ApHC, riders, non-riders, land owners and government personnel so please help us to maintain positive relationships with all involved.
3. If you're wanting to send a personal thank you note to any of the gracious landowners & managers to show your appreciation, this is always a great thing and helps to lay the groundwork for the continuation of our ride. Please send these to the ApHC office and they will pass them along.

While on the Trail:

1. **Courtesy** on the trail is a must. Please be mindful of how your riding affects others. We ask that you stay behind the Trail Guide and in front of the Drag Scout during the ride.
2. The ApHC will not be responsible for those that leave the main group.
3. Should you need to stop on the trail, pull over to the side so others may pass. Your horse is more apt to remain calm if you have another horse and rider stay with you while stopped.
4. If you need the services of the vet, farrier or physician contact a scout who will radio for assistance.
5. If you come upon someone with an injury or with an injured horse, as long as they have someone with them, please keep moving. Stopping can hold up the progress of help getting to the person needing assistance.
6. Our scouts are there to guide you, so all may experience the safest and most enjoyable ride possible. Please follow their directions.

What to do next...

1. Are you paid in full? Make sure to call the ApHC office and hit extension 0 for any final payments.
2. Be sure to bring along all of the required horse paperwork that has been previously listed.

3. Check that your vehicle and trailers are in good mechanical condition and wash the undercarriage of your truck and trailer. We want you to arrive safely!

For any further information about the Chief Joseph Trail Ride head to www.appaloosa.com and read through all of the links provided. There are state-by-state requirement links, trail ride checklist links, how to prepare links, trail ride guidelines links, and much more.

See you there!

Kindest Regards,

**Trail Ride Coordinator
Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc.
208.882.5578, ext. 264
trailrides@appaloosa.com**