



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Highway 63, #1 Park Road
PO Box 640201
Bryce Canyon, UT 84764-0201**



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3417

March 1, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for your interest in horseback riding in Bryce Canyon National Park. The use of privately-owned stock (horses and mules) to enjoy the wonders of Bryce Canyon National Park is welcomed! Regulations have been developed to assist you in enjoying your visit, keeping you and other visitors safe, and for protection of equine health and park resources. Please pay close attention to the procedures below.

I. General Rules:

1. Horseback riding is limited to the Horse Trail accessible near Sunrise Point and Peekaboo Loop. This is the same trail used by our Authorized Concessioner.
2. Stock must never be left unattended.
3. Backcountry trails and campsites in the park are not developed to accommodate horses; therefore, overnight stock camping or pack trips are not authorized.
4. All rules and regulations regarding general trail use also pertain to equestrian use of trails. These include: stock must always stay on trails; shortcutting of trails is not permitted; and riding parallel to the trail (outside the developed trail tread) is not permitted.

II. Prior to Your Arrival:

1. You must make a reservation! Any horse party without prior reservation will be turned around at the park entrance. Private equestrians must schedule a time for their ride at least 72 hours in advance (see details under III below). Up to 10 individual riders and their mounts per reserved time will be allowed. Only one party per time slot will be permitted.
2. We require the use of certified weed-free feed. Horses and mules must be fed certified weed-free feed a minimum of 48 hours prior to stock arriving at the park.
3. Be sure animal health certifications are in order. Stock brought to Bryce Canyon National Park must comply with Utah Administrative Code R58-1-7. It is your responsibility to meet the following requirements:
 - a) All stock brought to the park that originates from outside of Utah must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (valid for 30 days) and the certificate must show a negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) (Coggins - AGID or ELISA) test within the past 12 months.
 - b) For Utah equestrians, a park ranger will ask you to verify that your animals have not left the state in the past six months; otherwise the requirements for Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with the above EVH1 caveats and a negative Coggins test will apply.

- c) Utah law requires that owners of any horses being transported within Utah, whether originating in Utah or from another state must carry proof of ownership. Approved forms of proof of ownership are found at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food website: <http://ag.utah.gov/animal/animal-identification/36-animals/238-livestock-movement.html>.

Proof of ownership will also be used to verify the requirement for a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and Coggins testing, for out-of-state horses.

- d) A park ranger will check the documentation described above prior to stock being allowed in the park and equestrians will be required to provide proper documentation and certify that their stock meet(s) these requirements.

III. Scheduling a Ride Date and Time for Your Equestrian Group

Park horse trails include areas that are particularly narrow and steep-sided and may pose a risk when different riding groups converge. The park uses several techniques to lessen these risks including uni-directional flow, directional signage and ride scheduling. To provide for safety on park trails, protect natural resources, and improve visitor experience, all horseback riding must be scheduled with the National Park Service at least 72 hours in advance. The following time slots will be available: 7:30 am, 12:30 pm, 4:30 pm and every half hour thereafter up to 1 hour before sunset. This coordination is necessary to reduce potentially unsafe encounters with other horse parties, including the concession-led trail rides.

Private riders may schedule their group by contacting the park using one of the following methods:

Email: brca_horserides@nps.gov

Telephone: **435-834-4761** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time), **Monday – Thursday only**.

IV. When You Arrive at the Park:

1. All equestrians and their animals must enter through the main park entrance. The ranger at the entrance station will check your permit, inspect your animal health certifications, discuss Leave No Trace practices and park safety rules, and direct you to the Mixing Circle.
The entrance station opens at 8am. Any riders scheduled for a 7:30 a.m. start must check in the previous evening at the entrance station.
2. Parking, loading, and unloading must take place in the Mixing Circle area (see attached map).
3. Equestrians are expected to clean up after their animals in the Mixing Circle. If this does not occur, riders will be banned from future private rides.

We strongly encourage you to arrive at the park entrance 30 minutes before your departure time to meet with a park ranger, fill out required paperwork, and to assure sufficient time to unload, saddle, and travel from the Mixing Circle to the rim near the day corral where your ride into the canyon begins.

We hope this information will be helpful in planning and enjoying your horseback trip in Bryce Canyon National Park. For questions, please call 435-834-4761.

Sincerely,

Linda Mazzu
Superintendent