

**Yorktown Stirrup Club**  
**PO Box 64**  
**Lackey, VA 23694-0064**

**Hello equine enthusiasts!** Welcome to our trail ride event. We are very proud of our trails and are happy we are able to share them with you. Our trails are maintained through the voluntary dedication of our Yorktown Stirrup Club members. If you would like to be advised of our next trail ride event, please find a Trail Ride Coordinator and sign up on our “Friends of the Yorktown Stirrup Club” list.

**Our trails are color-coded.** We have put up triangle markers matching the color of the trail along the way. The triangles point the way to go. Our trails are set up for trail rider to travel in ONE direction. The white PVC pipe markers are NOT the horse trail markers. The colored plastic ribbons are NOT the horse trail markers.

**There are three (3) trails: Yellow, Red and Blue.** The trails are set up to be done in the sequence of yellow first, red second, and blue third. For the ultimate trail ride experience (8-10 miles), we recommend you do the trails in that order, however, you may bypass any trail and jump in where you choose. Our wooded trails include some ravines, water crossings and downed trees across some trails. Logs can be bypassed if you prefer to leisurely walk around them instead of jumping. You may be lucky enough to see some of our woodland friends like deer, foxes, rabbits, wild turkeys, woodchucks, squirrels and birds of all varieties. Plant life is abundant on our trails. Various types of foliage and smells correspond with the changes of the seasons. (A word of warning for you arachnophobes—spider life is also abundant and they love to string webs across trails.) You will see some hunt stands in the woods. During hunting season, we share our trails with the NWSY Hunt Club. In 2001 we began sharing a portion of our Blue Trail with joggers and in 2005 the Yellow Trail was opened for hikers, so be aware that you may see some nature lovers on foot.

**Yellow Trail:** This trail is pretty and, in the spring, is the most beautiful. You will get a view of Indian Field Creed as you travel along. There are a few “knee-knockers” so please be careful. The yellow trail ends on Indian Field Road. Go directly across the road and straight ahead you will see the red marker for the start of the red trail. If you wish to end your ride here, turn right on Indian Field Road, right on Main Road and straight ahead is the event headquarters.

**Red Trail:** This trail is the “ultimate hacking” experience. You will get a sneak peek of our NWSY’s Holly Oaks golf course, however, our golfing friends would prefer that you do not stop to play a round of golf on horseback! Observe the gorgeous wheat fields and interesting plant forms, including beds of ferns. Get to tiptoe around the edges of the “sacred deer fields”. These fields belong to our hunter sportsmen friends, so *please go single file along the perimeter of the deer fields*. We want to keep our good relationship with other groups on base! You will leave the woods and turn left along a fenced area. Be careful of the barbed wire on top of the fence. Keep an eye out to the left for the red marker to show you where to reenter the woods. As you come out of the second part of the red trail, you will travel in an open area parallel to the fence. This will end at a hard top road. Take a left and directly ahead is Roosevelt Road. Turn left and follow the blue markers to the blue trail. If you decide to end your ride here, turn right on Roosevelt Road, right on Main Road and go straight back to the event headquarters.

**Blue Trail:** DO NOT follow the white PVC pipe markers (some have blue/yellow bands on the top). They are NOT THE HORSE TRAIL MARKERS! This trail is **NOT** recommended for the beginner rider. There are many narrow, steep trails with sharp turns. It is challenging and the views are awesome!! It is a real “butt builder” for your horse!! You will follow blue markers down Roosevelt Road and around an open area before entering the woods. (We lost the beginning of our blue trail to Hurricane Isabel and haven’t been able to reopen it yet.) You will have a gorgeous view of Roosevelt Pond and the pier as you make a loop. You can catch a glimpse of Colonial Parkway and the York River. You will leave the woods and travel along Main Road before entering the woods again. At the end of the Blue Trail, you will be back on Roosevelt Road but farther down from where you started. Turn left on Roosevelt Road, right on Main Road and keep straight ahead to find the event headquarters and LUNCH!

**Enjoy your ride. Feel free to go on any of the trails a second time (as long as you do so before the deadline of the scheduled checkout). Come have lunch, relax, and meet old and new equine friends.**

## ABCs of Trail Riding

Trail etiquette is important to ensure that everyone has a pleasurable and *safe* ride. Below are some rules and suggestions to help you through the day. Please remember we are guests of the Naval Weapons Station (even those of us who board here) and we want to remain in good graces with our host.

Check out/Check in: When you depart, check out with the Time Keeper. At the end of your ride, check in with the Time Keeper.

Conduct: Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be accepted. Inhumane treatment of a horse will not be tolerated.

Deer fields: These fields belong to our hunter sportsmen friends of the NWSY Hunt Club so *please go single file along the perimeter of the deer fields*.

Distance between horses: Unless you and the rider ahead of you have made prior arrangements, please keep at least one horse length between you and the horse in front of you.

**EMERGENCY: IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, THE NUMBER TO CALL ON BASE IS 757-887-4911.**

Fence lines: Please do not trot or canter along fence lines. Walk in the vicinity of turn out fields so our grazing herd remains calm and safe.

Grassy areas: As safe as it looks, please DO NOT trot or canter along the road, beside restricted areas, etc. There are uncovered meter holes, soft spots above buried pipelines and, worst of all, LOTS of unseen woodchuck holes.

Hard top roads: Cross by the most direct route.

Hazards: Announce hazards you encounter to the rider behind. In turn, the rider behind should pass the announcement to the rider behind them and so forth. Try to use familiar calls, such as “ware hole” and indicate the side, such as “ware hole right”.

Helmets: ASTM/SEI certified helmets are REQUIRED for all riders under 18 and STRONGLY encouraged for all.

Last rider: Never leave the last rider of your group behind.

Litter: Do not litter on the trails. Please carry your trash out with you and deposit it in the trash receptacles back at the event headquarters.

Manure: It happens, but please be sure that manure and trash around your trailer is cleaned up before you leave. Please do NOT clean out your trailer in the parking area.

Passing: Declare your intention to pass as you approach and state which side you intend to pass them. Make sure there is plenty of room to pass and be careful doing so. Avoid sudden movements that may upset the horse being passed. The horse being passed should yield to the passer.

Ribbons: Please use ribbons tied securely at the top of the horse’s tail for safety as necessary. A green ribbon is for any horse who is unpredictable, skittish and/or lacks experience in this type of event. A red ribbon is for the horse that has any inclination to kick. If you have forgotten your ribbon, see a Trail Ride Coordinator. They might be able to help.

Saddles: Required. No riding double allowed.

**SMOKING: IS PROHIBITED ON THE TRAILS OR ANYWHERE IN THE OPEN. YOU MAY SMOKE ONLY IN YOUR VEHICLE WHILE IT IS PARKED. ALL LIT MATERIAL AND REFUSE MUST REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE. THIS IS A WEAPONS STATION.**

Speed: Riders that prefer to go at a faster pace should declare their intentions in advance to all of the neighboring riders and give them time to prepare.

Stirrup Club horses: Do not pet or feed Stirrup Club horses. Do not enter our stable area.

Stopping: Please wait quietly for the rider in your group who stops until they are ready to move on. Move to the side of the trail to allow others to pass.

Trails: Stay on the marked trails. Restricted areas, residential areas, the golf course and archery range will not be entered.

Trail Ride Event packet (map, information sheet, etc): To save a few trees, please return this packet to the Time Keeper at the end of your ride if you are finished with it.

Tree branches: To avoid spring-back injury to the rider and horse following, do not hold on to branches as you pass.

Tying horses: Do not tie your horse to trees or other plant life.

Youths: Under 13 must ride with a supervising adult, 13-17 must ride with a partner.

**Remember, if you would like to be advised of our next event, please find a Trail Ride Coordinator and sign up on our “Friends of the Yorktown Stirrup Club” list. Be sure to include your email address. The Yorktown Stirrup Club thanks you for your support. We enjoyed sharing our trails with you.**