

Washington County, Oregon

4-H

Wagon Train



Outrider Information

Wrangler: Donna Hammond

sugarshack5153@yahoo.com

503-801-3387 (cell)

503-738-6288 (home)



What Is Wagon Train?

The 4-H Wagon Train has been going for more than 38 years and has touched many lives - both youth and adult. Because we have the support of 4-H, registration for the program is through the OSU Extension Service. Each pioneer registers as either a youth member or an adult leader. We follow the 4-H guidelines for how we work, learn, play, and conduct ourselves at the general meetings during the year, the Tune Up Trek in June, and the Wagon Train Trek in July which is a week-long trip.

Attendance at a General Meeting is required to prepare everyone for the Trek. Information regarding the trail, dates, pre-Trek activities, volunteer workload, and health and safety issues is provided - as well as spending time getting to know the other pioneers. These meetings are necessary to ensure the July Trek is a positive experience for all of us.

The 4-H Wagon Train is made up of volunteer adult leaders and 4-H youth members, who head up committees that plan, lead, and make decisions during the year to prepare for the Wagon Train. Each adult board leader or committee member has a "Junior" who works with and assists the adult with their position during the year and most importantly during the trip. Each year we have a "Juniors' Day" where the kids lead all of the activities for that day and make all the decisions.

This is a working wagon train and you are expected to prepare yourself and/or your animal physically for the 7-15 mile routes we will be on each day of the Trek. 4-H Wagon Train provides meals for the week, but you will be asked to help serve, clean up, and prepare lunches as part of your role as a pioneer.

The 4-H Wagon Train is a week-long excursion usually scheduled for the third week of July. The Wagon Train will be travelling over gravel logging roads, dirt tracks and sometimes pavement. Staging will be determined by the Scout and the scouting committee, then announced to the general membership along with driving directions. We typically have between 75 to 125 participants. We will be divided into wagon families and each family has duties or chores that are assigned each day. We hike, ride an equine, or drive a wagon each day, working towards our final destination. Each night we set up camp and have "Family Circle" during which we give awards, make announcements, sing songs, and tell stories. Early in the morning, we break camp and head out on the trail again towards the next campsite. Tuesday or Wednesday is a lay-over day, where we take a break, invite family and friends to join us for the day at a pre-determined location, play games, wash & shower, do crafts, and have presentations. The next day we are on the trail again. Saturday we clean up and head home.

While the Trek is a fun, learning experience, long, hot days can be expected. There are times when chores have to be done, things break and have to be fixed, and trails must be cleared. However, just like every other wagon train that ever reached its destination, successful cooperation and problem solving pulled them along; 4-H Wagon Train is no different. We will attempt to prepare you for some of the stressful situations that might come up. We will also provide opportunities for problem solving and personal growth.

The Tune-Up Trek, held on about the third weekend in June, is a "trial run" for what is to come during the week in July. Tune-Up Trek is open to anyone whether they plan to go on the full Trek or not, but it is required by all those planning on going on the full Trek in July, especially first-time Pioneers. Others may want to attend Tune-Up to get a feel for the Wagon Train and prepare to attend the next year. For those attending Tune-Up Trek only are charged a nominal fee, per person, for the weekend. Tune-Up provides preparation for

the Trek in July. It gives you a chance to check out your gear, get used to being around animals and wagons, and get to know your “wagon family.”

Wagon Train is open to youth starting age 9 and in 4th grade and adults who are eligible for 4-H enrollment. All adults must be registered 4-H leaders to participate. We welcome Hikers, Equestrians (horses, mules, donkeys), support personnel, and of course WAGONS. We provide all food and water. Meals are prepared by the Camp Cook and the Youth. We provide High Quality Certified Weed Free Hay. We provide the rolling restrooms referred to as “Biffies.” You bring yourself, your personal gear (packing list provided) your horse or a great pair of hiking boots and MOST importantly a good attitude with a willingness to learn, work together and have an amazing experience in the wilderness.

Cost: \$300 per Participant + a fee for weed free hay per animal. Registration must be submitted on or before the May General Meeting.



Night Watch for Outriders

A night watch is necessary for the safety of the equines on Wagon Train. Therefore, we will do a night watch each night we are not in a developed campground with corrals. Night Watch consists of Pioneers scattering out among the highlines to set up their sleeping gear and spending the night with an ear open to “problem children.” Night Watch people do not necessarily need to be Outriders or Teamsters, but some Outriders and/or Teamsters should also be on Night Watch for safety reasons and to be available in case of emergency. The Wrangler will make sure that the Night Watch crew knows where he/she is bedding down for the night in case he/she is needed for an emergency.

Night Watch includes the placing of “glow sticks” near each highline group of equines. This is to help quickly identify where each highline is located in the woods. Glow Sticks should be placed as high as the highline, but out of the reach of nibbly lips. Glow Sticks need to be taken down each morning before heading out on the trail and disposed of in the trash. The Wrangler and/or Master Teamster and their Juniors and/or Swampers will double check that all Glow Sticks are removed each day.



Wagon Train Protocol

The 4-H Wagon Train has its own hierarchy. The following positions comprise the Wagon Train Board and Committee Members which oversee, plan, direct and implement the general meetings and activities of Tune-Up Trek in June and Wagon Train Trek in July.

Wagon Master—Runs the meetings, organizes agendas, and is in overall charge of the Wagon Train.

Camp Boss—Oversees the daily organization of the day's campsite and runs "family circle" meetings.

Ramrod—Responsible for riding "drag" at the end of the Wagon Train. Performs the Wagon Master's duties if he/she becomes incapacitated.

HeadTeamster—Oversees the teamsters, their wagons and ensures the safety and well-being of the teams. Organizes night watch during the trek in cooperation with the Wrangler.

Wrangler—Oversees the outriders, their safety and the well-being of the equines. Organizes night watch during the trek in cooperation with the Master Teamster. Conducts "check-out" rides for new horse/rider combinations before Trek.

Scout—Determines the year's Wagon Train route, identifies nightly campsites and works with the local forest and government organizations to gain permits, etc. for the Trek.

Cook—Oversees all cooking and kitchen ordering, food preparation, cleanup and storage.

Lead Support—Oversees all logistics including hauling water into camp, cleaning and dumping the "biffies", moving the support trucks and cook shack, etc.

Lead Walker—Oversees the walkers and organizes them for the day's hike.

Swamper—Assists the teamster he/she is assigned to. This includes grooming equines, harnessing teams to wagons, cleaning up after the equines, etc.

Lead Family Head—Oversees the family heads ensuring that family members are completing assigned camp chores and that the welfare of each family member is accommodated.

Family Head—Organizes and oversees the needs of individuals in his/her family. Tries to mitigate problems at this level. Reports to the Lead Family Head.

Problems should be addressed with due process. If a problem arises a pioneer should go to his/her family head or, in the case of a problem with an equine, should speak with the wrangler or master teamster. If the problem does not get resolved at this point the complaint will be referred to the Wagon Master or Ramrod. Cooperation is the key to solving problems and experiencing a great trek.

The Tune-Up Trek is held in June. It is a "trial run" for what is to come during the week in July. Tune-Up Trek is open to anyone whether they plan to go on the full Trek or not, but it is required by all those planning on going on the full Trek in July. Others may want to attend Tune-Up to get a feel for the Wagon Train and prepare to attend the next year.



Morning Prep

Mornings go fast for Outriders. It is imperative that the equines are fed first thing after you wake to allow them time to eat while you pack your gear and feed yourself. It's tempting to feed a lot of hay in the morning, but we need to be careful not to waste hay. Once the hay is on the ground there is no taking it back. Not only is uneaten hay wasteful, it leaves a trace that we were there. We really do try to "leave no trace".

Know what your family chores are for the day and discuss with your Wagon Family Head how and when those chores will get done. Serving breakfast and breakfast cleanup really eat into your time for getting your camp gear packed up and your horse tacked. Accepting help from non-equine folks is useful, but know what they are capable of (brushing, watering, hauling gear from shelter to gear drop location, etc.) and be willing to educate.

Help break down your family shelter and haul your gear to the drop location before getting your horse ready. In fact, this should be done before breakfast. Don't forget to take down your highline and scatter manure and any leftover hay. Having a helper hold your horse while you do this is helpful. Equines may also be tied to a tree using an extra tree saver. You might consider carrying an extra tree saver, rolled up, in your saddle bags for tying your horse to a tree during lunch layovers on the trail. Once everything is where it should be, listen for directions about where the outriders are gathering for the day's trek and the cue to mount your equine.

Feeding and Extra Supplies – Each morning there are always Pioneers who are very early risers. If you are one of those and you feel the need to immediately feed your horse consider the fact that the other equines will probably also want to be fed. You may wait until more Outriders and Teamsters are feeding, or you may feed all the equines a bit of hay. If you have any special considerations regarding this, please share those when the Outriders meet on the first day. You will be responsible for feeding your horse his full ration and any supplements.

Pack your horse gear, supplements and first aid kit efficiently as these will be transported in the cargo trailer and hay trailer this year. We will NOT have the extra horse trailer in camp each night. It will remain parked at staging and will be available in case of an emergency transport.

Liability Insurance – Liability insurance is highly recommended in case your equine causes damage or injury to another's equipment or person. Many homeowner's policies cover this aspect of insurance but might require a separate rider. Check with your insurance agent. Another good source of affordable, temporary, equine activity insurance is US Rider.



Wagon Train Equine FAQ's

Question: *I've never camped with my equine. Is that OK?*

Yes. We are here to help teach you and your animal the safe way to accomplish camping with your horse in the back country.

Question: *What do we feed while camping? Do we bring our own feed?*

Wagon Train provides Certified Weed Free Hay as required by USFS Guidelines. The \$35.00 animal charge covers your portion. You will need to provide hay and water for the first night or morning depending on when you arrive. We do NOT provide any supplements, vitamins or grains. If you feed these items, plan on bringing it with you. Prepackaging supplements is a good idea. It is also recommended that you bring at least 1 extra day's supplement ration in case you get delayed for some reason.

Question: *What is highlining?*

Highlining is a method of equine containment that is recognized and preferred by the USFS, OET and Backcountry Horsemen for use in the wilderness. Wagon Train has adopted this process as our primary containment method. It involves stringing a rope among several trees and tying the horses to this rope. We have handouts available that show the process. You can buy kits or build your own highline kit. We will provide a live demonstration as well.

Question: *Do we need insurance?*

4H requires all participants bringing an equine to have liability insurance. If you own a home/property where you keep your equine you typically have this through your homeowner's policy. We/4H just needs to have the pertinent contact information for your insurance provider. If you don't have a standing policy you can buy one very affordably through several different equine groups such as US Rider.

Question: *Do we need our horses vaccinated?*

4H encourages all participants bringing an equine to have their animals current on vaccinations to help stem the spread of equine related diseases.

Question: *Do we need our horses shod?*

It is highly recommended, but not necessary for all equines. If you normally keep your animal barefoot and condition them on a variety of footings to keep their feet and soles tough you may get away without shoes. We do encourage the use of EZ boots or similar devices if you are going to keep your animals barefoot. Remember, we will be riding for 7 consecutive days over all types of terrain/footing. It is your animal and your decision, but if it comes up lame or sore we will require you to stop riding and may evacuate your horse to our staging area.

Question: *What if my horse throws a shoe?*

We do encourage the use of EZ boots or similar devices as a back-up. If you are capable you can surely reset your own horse's shoe. We do not have a farrier or always have the proper tools. Some participants do have and bring the tools, but they are not obligated to correct the issue for you. It is your animal and your decision, but if it comes up lame or sore we will require you to stop riding may evacuate your horse to our staging area.

Question: What is the check-out ride?

The check-out ride is where the wrangler evaluates you, your horse and your gear for readiness to participate on the Wagon Train Trek. It is generally performed in a group setting with other new riders and equines. Animals and riders can react differently in a large group setting. The wrangler is looking to see that your mount is behaved and safe, that you have sufficient control over the animal and can get it to perform the basic tasks on the trail. Familiarize yourself with the Check-Out form provided in this packet. Lastly, the wrangler will review your tack to make sure it is in good working order and condition. It is the individual's responsibility to confirm their tack is safe and operational.

Question: I did the check-out ride last year. Do I need to do it again?

You only need a check-out ride again if you are riding a different animal. The review is 50/50 rider and equine. All are welcome to participate in the check-out ride. We certainly won't discourage you from attending! It's a great way to meet and see more of the outriders in action. This can allow you to figure out ahead of time who you and your equine may be compatible with on the trail.

Question: What kind of tack do I need?

First and foremost you need safe tack that is comfortable for you and your equine. You will typically be in the saddle 5-7 hours per day over 7 days. Poor quality and ill-fitting tack will rub you and your horse raw and you will both be miserable. We will provide a list of recommended items to bring. You won't necessarily need to go out and buy a whole bunch of gear. If you are an active rider you likely have or can borrow all that you need.

Question: Can I bring my stallion or yearling?

No.

Question: Do I have to wear a helmet?

Yes, if you are a youth ages 9 to 18 since Youth are enrolled in a 4H Program and the rules state that those participants must wear a riding helmet. For adults it's optional. However, many adults feel it's important to set a good example for our youth. Remember, a fall from as little as 2 feet can cause traumatic brain injury! Sitting on an equine can put your head as much as 8 feet off the ground. **Helmets must be properly fitted equestrian helmets** which meet the minimum performance standards imposed by the American Society of Testing Material (ASTM) F 1163 and includes certification and labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) while mounted on an equine or riding in a wagon being pulled by one or more equines. Such headgear must be secured with the strap engaged and properly fastened.



Wagon Train Packing List

SO here is an awesome list for what to pack. If you have suggestions or tips please share!
Remember to plan on wearing your clothing in layers. A clean change of clothes can be left in your vehicle to be worn home.

Please keep in mind the small bag we used to demonstrate how much to bring. Happy packing!

What to pack suggestions:

Flash Light/head lamp**Sunblock/ Bug Spray/Repellant**

Baby Wipes

Water Bottle/Canteen/camel back

Water socks/Old tennis shoes (water play)

Swim Suit

Deodorant & Toiletries (TP, shampoo, soap,

Chapstick,

Hand sanitizer, mouth wash,

toothbrush/toothpaste)

Bath Towel/Wash Cloth

Biodegradable Soap

Shoes (Walking and Camp)

Socks

Bandanas

Cotton and Synthetic Underwear/Skivvies,

Undershirt

Long Johns

Authentic Pioneer attire

Mess Kit

Shaving supplies

Band Aids/Mole Skin/First Aid Kit

Glasses/Sunglasses/contacts

Equestrian Helmet (ASTM F1163-01)

Duffel Bag

Extra Blanket

Long Pants/Shorts

Solar shower

Shirts/long and short sleeved

Camera/extra batteries

Hat

Duct tape

PJs/sweat pants

Sleeping bag/Pillow**Sleeping Pad or Cot**

Hand warmers

Fanny Pack/Small pack

Money for coming and going

Pen/pencil and Journal

Chair/bucket**Rain Gear/Poncho**

Book (for entertainment)

Warm hat/beanie and gloves

Hand Warmers

Coat/sweatshirt/jacket

Plastic bags/garbage bags big and small

Pocket Knife**Medications**



What To Pack Equines

Remember that hay is provided by the support team and will be made available near the highline area each day. Water tanks are provided and the support team will have them filled each day in camp.

Feeding a small amount of alfalfa pellets will help your equine's intestinal tract. It's a good source of calcium which coats the stomach and helps prevent irritation.

Here are some suggestions when you are packing for your equine in preparation for Wagon Train. This is not an inclusive list. Please feel free to suggest additions.

GROOMING SUPPLIES

TACK

- Saddle
- Saddle pad
- Bridle/reins
- Back cinch – optional
- Breast collar – optional
- Saddle bags/horn bag
- Tarp to cover tack at night

EXTRA TACK

- Bridle/reins/lead

HELMET

GLOVES

OTHER

- Highline equipment
- Bucket
- Fly spray / mosquito repellent
- Fly mask
- Rain sheet
- Emergency shoe replacement
- Clip on headlamp
- Rain gear/poncho

FEED/SUPPLEMENTS

- Daily supplements including vitamins
- Daily medications
- Alfalfa pellets
- Hay net or bag
- Mineralized Salt**

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Electrolytes
- Banamine or Bute
- Colic remedy
- Antibiotic ointment
- First aid spray
- Vet wrap
- Non-stick pads
- Ophthalmic ointment



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Highline Equipment

We will be highlining our equines at night. This involves stretching a rope between two trees and tying your horse's lead rope to the line. Hay bags are frequently hung on the highline in easy reach for your equine.

Here is a list of items in a well-stocked highline kit. These items store well in a five gallon bucket with a lid.

If you have never highlined your horse before here are some guidelines to help keep your equine safe overnight.

- The highline rope needs to be 7-8 feet off the ground. This allows the equine to get its head to the ground, as well as lay down overnight, but not get its feet tangled in the highline.
- Equines need to be spaced about 7 feet apart. This will help insure they don't invade each other's space and start a war in the middle of the night.
- Highlining requires at least three trees and tree savers to install correctly. Two trees are needed to stretch the rope between and one tree is needed to anchor the come-along to.
- The highline rope needs to be stretched taut.
- Several equines can be tied to one line as long as the guidelines of distance are observed.
- A crosstie with a quick-release snap can be used to attach your equine to the highline.
- Additional in-line ties can be used to hang a hay bag to the highline.
- Practicing highlining your equine at home beforehand is recommended.

HIGHLINE EQUIPMENT

100 feet of sturdy cotton rope
1 or 2 ratchetting come-alongs
3-4 Tree savers
In-line tie loop – with or without swivel
3-4 heavy-duty carabiners
Cross Tie



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Washington County 4-H Wagon Train Dress Code

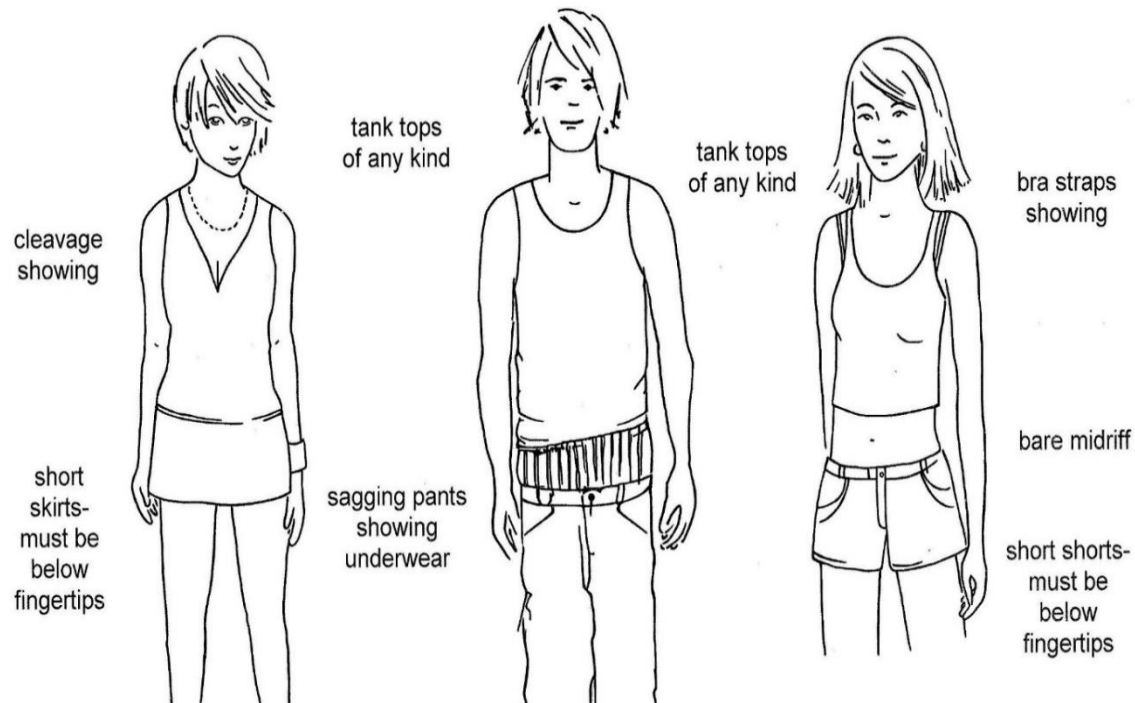
This dress code is compiled from the National 4-H dress code in addition to the unique requirements of Washington County 4-H Wagon Train. The purpose of the dress code is to first safely outfit individuals for this experience and second to resemble appropriate school and community expectations while representing 4-H. Any youth and adult leaders attending this event (this includes, Tune Up, Promotional Events, Fairs, Fundraisers, and Meetings) shall adhere to these standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing which is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene, or which endangers the health and safety of the youth or others is prohibited.

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance include but are not limited to:

- Exposed undergarments
- Intentionally sagging pants or shorts
- Excessively short, tight garments or muscle shirts
- Bare midriff shirts, tube tops, halter tops, one-shoulder tops, strapless tops, spaghetti strap tops, dresses/tops/pants/skirts that expose midriff, navel, back, or cleavage.
- See-through clothing, cut offs, ripped jeans, or other clothing with holes
- Attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, indecent, or vulgar or that advertise any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as those for alcohol or tobacco products or drugs.
- Head covering of any kind except special circumstances
- Attire that encourages indecent exposure
- Any adornment such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon or gang related symbols
- Any symbols, styles or attire frequently associated with intimidation

Exceptions or modifications to dress code unique to Wagon Train:

Washington County 4-H Wagon Train is a unique activity within 4-H and therefore has its own requirements or modifications to the dress code due to safety. The activity itself is an equine associated activity whether the participant is directly or indirectly taking part with an equine. Therefore, it is critical that all participants, whether adult leaders or youth, wear closed-toed shoes or boots at all times in camp and on the trail. As an outdoor activity we are subject to changing weather so it is imperative that participants adhere to the clothing restrictions as well as suggestions when referring to the packing lists.



- Closed-toed shoes are required at all times with the exception of water play where other footwear is necessary.
- Heeled riding boots with smooth soles are required for all riders.
- Shorts are allowed for walkers however it is highly recommended that they carry clothing with them to cover any bare skin. Walkers are encouraged to wear high-top hiking boots.
- Swimming suits are allowed for water play however they must be modest. Water socks, shoes, or sandals are required for water play.
- Long pants required for all riders, swampers and teamsters.
- Hats are encouraged for all participants, and must be worn on the trail to help shield ears and shoulders from the sun.
- All 4-H youth members must wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet which meets the minimum performance standards imposed by the American Society of Testing Material (ASTM) F 1163 and includes certification and permanent labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) while riding in a wagon being pulled by one or more equine, or mounted on an equine. Such headgear must be secured with the harness/strap and properly fastened.
- No cell phones, radios, portable gaming devices, or electronics allowed except for cameras. Exception is group leaders and the use of GMRS radios for juniors.



4H Wagon Train Equine Check Out

Name - _____

Date _____

Equine - _____

Breed - _____

Wrangler - Donna Hammond

Each horse and rider (H/R) combination should be able to reasonably accomplish these tasks in a safe and efficient manner. Horse and rider combinations are not expected to be able to do everything perfectly. We will work with you and your equine. Riders who do not show a reasonable proficiency during a check-out ride may request a second assessment from the Wrangler at a future check-out ride. Please contact the Wrangler if you have questions.

Rider		Horse	
Rider leads horse safely and calmly.		Horse loads/unloads a trailer w/o undue hesitation.	
Rider grooms horse effectively.		Horse loads/unloads other trailers w/o undue hesitation.	
Rider saddles horse effectively.		Horse leads calmly without pushing handler.	
Rider bridles horse effectively.		Horse is in good physical condition.	
Rider is able to mount/dismount from both sides.		Horse accepts being tacked up calmly.	
Rider rides with correct posture.		Horse accepts place in the group calmly.	
Rider demonstrates competence moving horse laterally.		Horse stands quietly while rider mounts.	
Rider demonstrates competence backing the horse.		Horse is under control with loud noises.	
Rider demonstrates competence with turns.		Horse is under control with other distractions.	
Rider demonstrates competence at walk/trot.		Horse stands quietly while tied.	
		Horse can be ponied or held by a lead with other horses.	

Horse/Rider Combination		Other	
H/R is able to walk away from the "herd" calmly.		Tack is in good condition and is safe to use.	
H/R can cross water with or without a "lead".		Rider is competent in managing the horse's diet.	
H/R can cross a bridge with or without a "lead".		Rider has a way to safely carry personal items and WATER.	
H/R can back at least 10 steps.			
H/R can turn 180° on either forehand or haunch.			
H/R can stand quietly for up to 10 minutes.			