



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.

Head Teamster—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 Head 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.

Head of 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 Head 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.