

PACKING FOR THE TRAIL

Your adventure begins! With some planning, you should be comfortable on the trail. Keep in mind everything is packed on a mule, so don't over pack. As we practice "light on the land" principles in the wilderness, we take the fewest pack animals possible. Therefore, we request you limit your personal items, clothing, sleeping bag, pad and duffel to **45 lbs**.

Select a zippered duffel bag for your personal belongings (waterproof is best). Your sleeping bag & pad can be packed in a separate duffel bag. It's helpful to organize items in your bag in Ziploc or plastic sacks, as it also helps keep things dry. While we always hope for a dry trip, weather does happen. You will need *good* raingear, either a good riding slicker or a two piece set (don't forget the pants or you will be wet). Poncho's can tear and blow in the wind, causing you to be wet and scaring your horse. The good old-fashioned yellow riding slicker covers you and your saddle from shoulders to foot and isn't too expensive. Make sure you have a waterproof hat/cover too. Waterproof your boots and leather gloves, not just for rain but also in the morning from the dew.

Temperatures in the mountains vary during the day, so it is advisable to wear *clothing in layers*. For a 6-day trip, you need 2-3 complete changes of clothing with extra socks and underwear (depending on trip length). Sleepwear varies, some like sweats or long underwear & a ski cap. Pack a warm winter jacket or jacket and vest for cool evenings or a sudden storm. You should have a good sleeping bag down to freezing temperatures (rated to zero or below) as everyone's comfort range is different & they are never as warm as they rate. Optional sleeping bag liners offer extra warmth. Inflatable sleeping pads such as Thermarest are best. Pillows are too bulky - pack a pillowcase and fold your jacket inside. Also, remember a flashlight or headlamp - it gets dark at night!

We provide a solar shower for bathing, or you may prefer to heat water for a sponge bath. Many wash up in the river. Baby wipes work great too. Remember to bring biodegradable soap/shampoo. There will be a latrine set up away from the main camp. Make sure to bring packets of tissue for along the trail – there are no facilities.

Anything you need during the day can be packed in your saddle-bags (we don't allow fanny packs as you ride - they are too cumbersome and heavy). You will need space for your daily sack lunch. Cameras, binoculars, sunscreen, etc can fit, but watch the weight. You can tie your slicker and jacket directly on your saddle and we provide pommel bags for your water bottle.

You will bunk in lodge rooms the night before and after your trip, and you may have to share a room with others on the trip (male rooms, female rooms); however, if available we will put you in a cabin. Your sleeping bag, pad and duffel will be packed up this evening, so bring an overnight bag with any personal items you will need this night and in the morning. You may leave any items that you don't need for the trip in these rooms. It's also nice to leave an extra set of fresh clothes at the ranch so you can shower right away and not have to wait for the pack-string to return. Cell phones do not work in the wilderness so leave them at the ranch. We have a safe in the office for anything that you would like to lock up while out on the trip.

Remember, pack for comfort, but pack light. Here's a checklist:

- warm jacket and optional vest
- good raingear – a must!
- 2-3 complete changes of clothing
- long underwear (great to sleep in)
- swimsuit, shorts
- hat or cap with a tie string to save it if windy
- bandanna, gloves, hat
- footwear - Riding boots with a good heel (try to waterproof), hiking boots or sneakers for camp, and "wet" shoes or sandals for swimming or wading in the streams.
- sleeping bag, mattress pad
- good Nalgene type water bottle (32 oz)
- camera, binoculars, sunglasses
- fishing tackle if interested, fly rod or spinning tackle
- personal kit: small towel, washcloths, soaps, sunscreen, lip balm, insect repellent, small flashlight or head lamp, moist towelettes, jack knife, prescriptions, hand warmers might be handy to keep your toes warm at night.
- reading, writing or drawing material
- FIREARMS PROHIBITED
- ALCOHOL: **Limit of 1 bottle per person.** It must be packed separately from your duffel, so bring to the wrangler's attention. Please transfer to plastic container with tight seal (glass is too heavy). We **do not** pack in canned drinks – too bulky, heavy and they tend to explode.

