



Ride in Lake County

Horseback trails exist through out the county, from the Mendocino National Forest in the north to Middletown in the south, from Cow & Boggs Mountain areas in the west to the Indian Reservoir in the East.

Anywhere one goes to ride their favorite steed, there is beauty to be found. Majestic views, scenic mountains, streams and trails are everywhere.



The rural and wilderness features of the county makes the rides all the more enjoyable. So, go for that ride and enjoy your day . . .

Be safe when you do.



How to know you are lost

Equestrians can be lost for the same reasons hikers, campers, and hunters are.

One is lost when he or she is

- ◆ confused about their location in respect to finding their destination and
- ◆ cannot get reoriented.

Most equestrians (over 50%) are lost because:

- * they are unfamiliar with the area or trail;
- * they got disoriented;
- * turned in the wrong direction at a trail intersection;
- * went off the trail to look at a scenic view or chase after prey; or
- * darkness overtook them

Nearly 25% of riders are lost because they fell off their horse, and the horse ran away or the rider was injured in the fall.

Another 25% are "overdue" (had not returned at the expected time) – the ride took longer than expected, the truck or trailer broke down, they stopped to eat, or some other reason.

Be prepared to ride

- * Let others know:
 - ◆ Where you are going.
 - ◆ Where you will park.
 - ◆ The trail you plan on taking.
 - ◆ When you expect to return.
- * Ride with others – it is fun and safe.
- * Carry something to signal with, a rescue whistle is small and light.
- * Carry an up-to-date map.
- * Check in with the ranger station.
- * Carry a cell phone.
- * Pack on your back, not on the horse.
- * Carry water, at least 1 liter.
- * For early evening rides, take a jacket and a flashlight.

If lost

- **Stay put!** Resist trying to find your way back. This can complicate search efforts.

Some 75% of lost equestrians are within 5 miles of their trailer. Searchers will be looking for you on the trails within that radius, first on the trail you took.

- **Stay Visible!** Stay on the trail. Signal. Use the whistle, 3 loud blows. Try the cell phone. Sometimes text message will go out even if the call will not.
- **Stay Alive!** Know that someone will be looking for you. Most searches last less than 12 hours. Many are under 6 hours.

Lake County Search & Rescue

Each year, the Sheriff's office is called upon to find people who are lost in Lake County. This includes hikers, campers, hunters, equestrians, boaters, kayakers, children, senior citizens, residents and guests of Lake County. The Sheriff uses trained volunteers to assist in performing this duty.

The volunteers of the Lake County Search & Rescue Association are called upon by the Sheriff's Office to meet this responsibility. LCSARA is comprised of volunteers who train to professional standards to search, rescue, or assist those who are lost. LCSARA members, under the Sheriff's authority, perform search operations in the mountain, rural, urban, and waterways of the County.

Members are training in search management, man-tracking techniques, first aid, technical rope rescues, off-highway vehicle use, swift-water rescue, and other areas necessary to find and locate those that are missing, lost, or injured.

The association meets monthly and on scheduled weekends for training.

For more information, contact the Lake County Sheriff's office at 707.262.4100.



Monthly meeting
Second Wednesday of the Month
AWP Building, 4913 Helbush Rd., Lakeport, CA
7:00 pm

**For more information contact
Lake County Sheriff's Office
707-262-4100.**

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Lake County
Search & Rescue Association



Equestrian Safety



So Others May Live