

JCOS Trail Use Etiquette

"Expect and respect other trail users" could be expanded to describe the shared use/multiple use philosophy of JCOS

"Use a friendly greeting when approaching another trail users and gain their attention" might go into the need to establish communication to effect safe passes as well as to acknowledge the social aspect of using public lands.

"At approximately 50 feet of encountering horseback riders, communicate to allow safe passage" should explain the hazards to riders and other users if a horse is startled, and how the rider knows their mount best and how they prefer to have trail users approach.

"Be aware of your surroundings at all times." Acknowledge other users, listen for signals from birds and wildlife, stay out of toxic plants (poison ivy)...etc. Also to learn about the outdoor environment: What is that particularly unusual flower? Is this butterfly unusual?

"When using ear phones, turn down the volume and keep one ear free to hear others on the trail"...emphasize courtesy, communication efforts, calls for assistance...etc.

"Step off the trail when using a cell phone" *Fairly straight forward, but an anecdotal account might help to convey the importance of stepping off.*

"When appropriate, voluntarily yield the trail" A bicyclist travelling uphill would appreciate a hiker coming downhill volunteering to give up the trail for them to continue to grind along especially in a particularly narrow stretch.

"Move to the side to allow passage" In specific segments of trail, often users might want to move to the left to allow another user to pass because of the narrowness of the trail, a rock outcropping or wall that limits the trail width.

"Stay right, pass left" Much like traveling on a roadway, we are conditioned to travel on the right side and pass on the left. On trails designed to accommodate side by side traffic, the best approach is to stay right and allow faster users to pass on the left when the trail is clear of oncoming users.

"When possible, yield to trail users traveling uphill" As two trail users meet each other on the trail, the uphill traveler is expending more energy and unless they need a rest, a downhill traveler could yield the trail so they may continue their climb.

"Acknowledge communication attempts" A trail user attempting to establish communication to effect a safe pass should be acknowledged. The trail experience might be enhanced for both users and the user initiating the pass doesn't have to guess if their communication has been received.

"Slow down when approaching corners, switchbacks and blindspots" Unless you know what might be on the other side of a rock outcrop, tree or heavy brush, avoid collisions or surprises by slowing down and using caution before proceeding on the trail.

JCOS ETIQUETTE SUMMARY

- Expect and respect other trail users
- Use a friendly greeting when approaching another trail user and gain their attention
- At approximately 50 feet of encountering horseback riders, communicate to allow safe passage
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times
- When using ear phones, turn down the volume and keep one ear free to hear others on the trail
- Step off the trail when using a cell phone
- When appropriate, voluntarily yield the trail
- Move to the side to allow passage
- Stay right, pass left
- When possible, yield to trail users traveling uphill
- Acknowledge communication attempts
- Slow down and use caution when approaching corners, switchbacks and blind spots