



MACKINAC
HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WWW.MACKINACHORSES.ORG



Mackinac 4-H Horse Clubs

Giddy-Up & Go Club

Galloping Gliders

Mackinac 4-H Horse Club Handbook

INTRODUCTION

The Mackinac Horsemen's Association and Mackinac 4-H Horse Club are proud to be able to provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the fellowship of horses. We want everyone to enjoy our programs safely and in a family-friendly atmosphere. The code of conduct and rules outlined in this handbook are to allow us all to have a safe experience. We will do our best to uphold these guidelines and set an example for all to follow. MHA, MCEC and 4-H are non-profit organizations and need your support through volunteerism and financial assistance.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a 4-H Horse Club Member I will:

- accept the responsibility to represent the M.H.A. and 4-H Horse Club Programs with dignity and pride by being a positive role model
- act in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model
- respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules established by MHA, MCS and the 4-Horse Club
- abstain from and not tolerate foul language or abusive behavior towards others or horses
- accept the responsibility to promote and support the M.H.A. and 4-H Horse Club Mission Statements goals, and programs

GENERAL RULES

- Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult while at the stable
- Riders under the age of 9 may not ride, unless accompanied by an adult
- Riders between the ages of 9 and 12 going out on the trails must ride in pairs and have prior adult/parental permission and must log in and out
- Always warm up and cool down your horse properly
- Do not feed or water an overly hot, sweaty horse
- Do not tie your horse by the reins of the bridle,
- Always use a halter and leadline to tie your horse

Mackinac 4-H Horse Clubs

Giddy-Up & Go Club

Galloping Gliders

STABLE RULES

- 4-H Horse Club Members must adhere to the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center Rules and Policies
- Dress appropriately to be at the stable. No handling horses in flip flops or sandals.
- Use your horse's assigned grooming tools. Do not use other's tools, as this can spread skin conditions
- If you break something, inform the management
- Safety first: think sharp, be alert and keep your eyes open
- Be polite and courteous to fellow boarders and visitors
- Keep the stable yard and stable clean and neat
- Contact the director with any problems concerning the horses, boarders or stable management

HORSE HANDLING

- Always treat your horse with respect and kindness
- Ensure your horse is aware of your presence before entering the stall or approaching
- Always lead your horse with a leadline, not by the halter
- When leading your horse, stay to his right side
- Never wrap the leadline around your hand
- Always tie your horse with a slip knot
- Do not leave your horse unattended
- Never tie your horse up by the reins of the bridle
- Keep as much space as possible between your horse and others to avoid kicks in or around the stable
- Carefully check all the tack while saddling up for any breaks, cracks, tears or worn leather or metal
- Always be sure your horse is properly cooled out before putting him back in his stall
- Do not leave horse treats lying about
- Be alert for any unusual horse behavior or activity and let the director or barn manager know immediately

LESSON RULES

- Arrive on time for your lesson, ready to ride
- Wear proper attire (long pants and shoes or boots with heels)
- Riding helmets are required at all times when mounted
- Always check your tack before mounting
- Always warm up and cool down your horse properly
- Be considerate to your fellow riders, your instructors and your horses
- Allow plenty of space between your horse and the next rider, at least one horses length
- If riding in opposite directions in the ring pass left hand to left hand