

## Utah Pony Express Guidelines for the Re-Ride

1. New riders will be briefed on the basics of how the exchanges work and what is expected of them. Everyone must be willing to take the least desirable areas because the teams rotate positions each year.
2. All riders must be in uniform when carrying the mail. Uniforms include; a long sleeved, red, western style shirt, a brown vest with the Pony Express patch on the back, blue jeans, a yellow scarf, cowboy boots and hat (preferably brown) or helmet.
3. All riders must have experience loping on a horse.
4. Horses and riders must be physically conditioned and able to lope 2 mile sections. It is cruel not to get horses in condition to lope the distances before the re-ride.
5. Horses should be able to handle loping:
  - on asphalt or concrete surfaces, cross walks, and over manhole covers.
    - Prior to the ride, riders must utilize improved traction methods such as Drill Tech, borium or borium tipped nails on shoes, or use boots or rubber shoes, etc. for these sections.
  - near motorized vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, and through intersections with traffic lights.
  - near people cheering, loud music, balloons, and flags flapping in the wind.
  - out in the desert with possible, snakes, rabbits, coyotes, and wild horses.
6. Swearing in, map distribution, bible stamping, rider pins, and assignments must be completed well before the mail arrives for your team to take possession.
7. During the re-ride, all riders must:
  - have their horses out of the trailer and **READY** to exchange the mochila **BEFORE** it gets to them.
  - if possible, have members of their support team ready to assist in holding horses and moving the mochila to the waiting horse.
  - only sign the mochila when it can be done swiftly, not in front of the media and not holding up the forward progression.

- wait until their support rig passes and the pilot vehicle is ready to go before starting their run.
- attempt to lope or trot fast where it's possible and safe.
  - Walking is only acceptable if safety issues prohibit a lope or fast trot.
  - If safety is questioned or the horse is not moving forward for more than a minute, the pilot vehicle driver has the authority to make judgment calls including removing the mochila from the current horse and putting it onto another horse or transporting it by vehicle to the next waiting rider.
- keep their horses on the right side of the road or shoulder to prevent blocking traffic while running or exchanging the mochila.

8. Drivers of the trailers should:

- get ahead of their rider (preferably before the rider takes off) to get to their pick-up spot.
- pass the rider only where it's safe with no oncoming traffic.
- clean up any manure on the roadways. (mandatory on watershed areas)

9. Drivers of trailers should **NOT**:

- linger parallel with the rider for any length of time (including taking photos).
- drive slowly in front of the rider, impeding their speed and/or visibility.
- pull off at any **UNSAFE SPOTS** for the exchange such as blind curves, hills or narrow roads.

10. The pilot vehicle driver must:

- drive a "stand alone" vehicle and not a truck with a trailer transporting horses or riders.
- have phone numbers for all the riders and support vehicle drivers on the team.
- have a map of the exact route and become familiar with it before the first rider leaves.

11. **All exceptions must be approved by your Trail Captain and their decision is final.**

Abiding by these guidelines should promote a fun, safe, and efficient re-ride.

We are portraying an exciting time in American History and  
*"Keeping the Spirit Alive!"*