

Nebraska Pony Express Re-Ride Guidelines 1/17/2023

1. Maps and ride leg assignments will be made by the Trail Captains. Everyone must be willing to take any section, whether it is the most desirable or not. Trail Captains will try to be as accommodating as possible. New Riders will be briefed on the basics of how the exchanges work and what is to be expected of them. First-time riders will receive their bibles. The bibles are stamped each year that a rider participates in the Re-Ride.
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 patches, blue jeans, a yellow scarf, cowboy boot and hat (preferably brown, but straw hats ok) or safety helmet. Also, be prepared for any weather with slickers, etc.
3. All riders must have experience and be capable of loping or long trotting on their horse.
4. Horses and riders must be physically conditioned and able to lope or long trot 2-mile sections, averaging a 10MPH speed. (It is cruel not to get horses in condition to lope or long trot the distances before the Re-Ride.)
5. Horses must be able to handle loping/long trotting:
 - On asphalt or concrete surfaces, cross walks and manhole covers.
 - Near motorized vehicles, traffic lights, bicycles and pedestrians.
 - Near people cheering, loud music, balloons, mailboxes and flags in the wind.
 - Out in open country or on county roads with possible deer, rabbits, coyotes, dogs, horses across the fence and other possible distractions.
 - Across bridges and going along water such as rivers, creeks and canals.
6. Horses must be acclimated to throwing the mochila up onto their back without bother. (Practice beforehand!)
7. Swearing in, bible stamping & rider pins should be completed either before or after the ride, to keep the mail moving forward at all times.
8. During the Re-Ride, all riders must:
 - Have their horses out of the trailer, warmed up and READY to exchange the mochila BEFORE it gets to them.
 - If possible, have rig drivers or members of the 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.
 - Long trot or lope where it is possible and safe. Walk ONLY if safety issues prohibit a long trot or lope.
 - Advance the mochila over the Trail ONLY while it is on a horse.
 - At night, have trailer rig follow with lights if possible, or suggest wear a headlamp of some type.
9. Drivers of trailers should:
 - Pass the rider only where it's safe with no oncoming traffic.
 - At night, if possible, follow rider to provide light for them, if rider wishes.
 - Use flashers when traffic dictates, especially on highways.
10. Drivers of trailers should NOT:
 - Park in an area that disrupts traffic or is unsafe.
11. Riders must be NPEA members. Membership applications are due by February 28 to your Trail Captain or Nebraska President.

Using common sense and 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!*"

2023 MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

We can always use more members and riders. Membership participation can range from basic financial support, with only dues, to also riding in the Re-Ride, or being a support person, to attendance at any or all NPEA-sponsored events.

Rider requirements. In addition to a brown/straw western hat, safety helmets are acceptable as headgear, as is no hat at all. Remember: Red, long-sleeve shirts, brown vest with XP patches, blue jeans, yellow scarf, etc. Review Rider Requirements at <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/riders-wanted/> Patches are available for order on the membership form.

Age requirements : 14 y/o (reaching 14 at any time during the year of the ride) and older can ride alone with the mochila and must be a member (have their own application). Riders 13 and under may buddy-ride (we ask that they wear white shirt, blue jeans) with a qualified rider, but may not carry the mochila on the Re-Ride.

WAIVERS:

EVERYONE who rides or is around the horses (support personel, etc.) MUST have a separate Nebraska waiver signed by themselves (if 18 y/o and older) or by a parent or guardian (if 17 and under- 2 minors may be on one waiver). Also, for each state that you ride in you must have that state's specific waiver signed, as well. Each state's laws are specific and their respective waivers reflect that specificity. The waivers do not have to be re-signed each year unless a member changes legally, for example: turns 18 y/o, changes address, changes name, etc. Then a new waiver must be signed to reflect the current status of the member. These waivers are kept by each state's respective president, and go along on the Re-Ride with him/her. Nebraska Insurance Waiver Forms are available from your Trail Captain or <https://nationalponyexpress.org/the-states/nebraska/#forms> Print out each page separately (3 pages, front only). Be sure to sign and initial in all the places requested and check all the boxes. (Also, DO NOT shrink the font or change the waivers in any way when you copy or send by email.)

LETTERS:

Remember to order a letter, regular (\$5) or personal (\$10). (Make checks payable to NPEA.)

Letter money comes back into the Nebraska Division Treasury, AND

you have history in a letter carried by YOU on the Pony Express! This year is about California XP history.

Send your letter applications to the Kansas address on the form, separate from the membership application.

We usually carry about 1000 letters in the mochila on the Re-Ride.

Re-Ride Letter Applications are available: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/send-a-letter/>

We encourage Anyone and Everyone to send a letter!

FOLLOWING THE 2023 RE-RIDE ONLINE:

The map online at <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/follow-the-ride/> will follow the ride in real-time.

The mochila pinger hits about every 5-10 minutes to mark the locations.

The 2019, 2021 & 2022 Re-Rides are still at this site, and you can access them to learn how it works.

Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/faqs/>