

Pony Express Fast Facts

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) is an all-volunteer, historical organization with the purpose of identifying, re-establishing and marking the original **Pony Express National Historic Trail**, from St. Joseph, Missouri, via Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada to Sacramento, California.

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) Oath

Each rider who participates in the annual Re-ride must repeat the following oath:

I, _____ do hereby swear, before the great and living God, that during my engagement as a member of the National Pony Express Association Re-ride I will under no circumstances use profane language, that I will drink no intoxicating liquors, that I will not quarrel or fight with any other member of the Association, and that in every respect, I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my associates. So help me God.

Pony Express Today - NPEA

- The NPEA was incorporated in 1978.
- NPEA is a non-profit 501(c) (3) Association.
- National Headquarters is located in Pollock Pines, California
- The Annual Re-ride is held in June of each year.
- The trail goes through MO, KS, NE, CO, WY, UT, NV & CA
- Total distance of the Re-Ride is approximately 1966 miles, from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California .
- The Re-Ride travels east (CA > MO) in even numbered years and west (MO>CA) in odd numbered years.
- Each year over 750 riders participate in the Re-Ride.
- Each "leg" of the ride is between 1 & 20 miles depending on terrain, rider ability, and trail accessibility.
- The Riders on the Pony Express Re-Ride carry mail in a mochila. The mail is placed in a mochila which fits over the saddle and is transferred to a fresh horse at each exchange.
- In many states HAM provides communication support during the Re-Ride.
- At the terminus the mail from the mochila is given to the USPS for their final delivery.
- Anyone can send a souvenir commemorative letter to be carried on the Re-Ride for the same price as it was in 1860...\$5. If you want to send a personal letter, the cost is \$10
- Once the Re-Ride begins each year, the riders continue to relay the Mochila for 24 Hours a day in any and all types of weather, including cold, heat, rain, sleet and snow to reach the final destination in 10 days.
- Average speed of the entire ride is 10 MPH
- We hold an annual Board of Directors meeting in September.

Keeping History Alive

- The original Pony Express operated for 18 months from April 3, 1860 until it officially ceased operations with the connection of the transcontinental telegraph on October 24, 1861.
- The Original Pony Express made its last run on November 20, 1961.
- In August 1935 during the Pony Express Diamond Jubilee Celebration, about 300 Boy Scouts participated in an historic Pony Express re-ride. They carried letters from Sacramento to St. Joseph addressed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Governors and other officials along the trail. The letters were then flown by airplane from St. Joseph to Washington DC and delivered to the White House by horseback.
- In 1960 The National Pony Express Centennial Association organized a Centennial Re-Ride. Riding clubs and other horsemen participated, riding both ways between Sacramento and St. Joseph from July 19 to 28, 1960. Five hundred riders rode in each direction. President Eisenhower sent letters in the mochila to each of the governors in the eight trail states. A special commemorative stamp was issued and placed on these envelopes. Letters were sold to be carried on the re-ride for \$100 each. The funds raised by letters along with the sale of 1000 Commemorative Colt Revolvers were used to memorialize the Pony Express by marking trail sites.
- In the mid 1960's a group of California horse and trail enthusiasts started doing re-enactments of the Pony Express. In 1977 they formed the National Pony Express Association (NPEA), and the organization was incorporated on March 3, 1978.
- The first re-enactment by the newly formed National Pony Express Association to reach the full distance between Sacramento, California and St Joseph Missouri was in 1980.
- In 1983 NPEA commissioned to carry public mail in a contract with the US Postal Service. For 6 weeks starting April 15 the Pony carried mail through the American River Canyon in California, around a massive landslide that had cut off several small towns in the area.
- The Pony Express Trail was designated a National Historic Trail in 1992.
- The 1996 Olympic Torch was carried by Pony Express from northeast Colorado to St Joseph MO from May 13th arriving in St. Joseph May 16, 1996.
- The First International Ride for Peace and Unity Among Nations, took place in 1990. Six Czech riders traveled to the U.S. to take part in the NPEA re-ride, and six American riders were invited to travel over there to ride with them. The Czechoslovakians had been doing their own re-ride since 1985.
- European Pony Express - Germany started in 1989, also runs through Czech, Poland, Slovakia

Quick Links

Website: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/expressrider/>

Email: NationalPonyExpress@gmail.com

Re-Ride Schedule: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/current-re-ride/>

Gazette - Pony Express annual Newspaper - <https://nationalponyexpress.org/news/pony-express-gazette/>

Newsletters - <https://nationalponyexpress.org/news/the-pony-express-news/>

Officers: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/about/national-directory/>

Membership: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/about/become-a-member/>