

National Pony Express Association - California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Pony Express Association
Petra Keller, Corresponding Secretary
NationalPonyExpressMedia@gmail.com
<https://nationalponyexpress.org/>

Pony Express Annual Re-Ride Departs Old Town Sacramento Wednesday, June 11

Pollock Pines, CA – May 20, 2025 – On **Wednesday, June 11** the thunder of hooves and the spirit of the Old West return to **Old Town Sacramento** as the **2025 Pony Express Annual Re-Ride** sets off on its 1,966-mile journey to **St. Joseph, Missouri**. Organized by the **National Pony Express Association (NPEA)**, the Re-Ride is a 10-day, 24-hour-a-day horseback relay reenacting the legendary mail route that helped shape the American frontier. Riding with an authentic leather mochila, volunteers carry approx 1200 **commemorative letters** along the original 1860 Pony Express Trail.

California Route Highlights:

- **Old Town Sacramento – Official Departure** *Pony Express Plaza (2nd & J Streets)*
Wednesday, June 11 | Ceremony starts at 1:15 PM, First rider departs at 2:00 PM PDT
Join the National Pony Express Association, local officials, reenactors, and the public for a send-off celebrating the courage and grit of the original riders. Following a ceremony, the first rider will depart with the mochila, kicking off the 2025 Re-Ride.
- **Folsom History Museum**—*823 Sutter Street, Folsom, CA*
Wednesday, June 11 | Approx. 6:29 PM PDT
The Re-Ride gallops into Gold Rush country with a spirited mochila exchange on Sutter Street. The Folsom History Museum will host activities for all ages, historical exhibits, and a chance to meet the modern-day riders.
- **El Dorado “Y”** – *Highway 50 at Pony Express Trail*
Wednesday, June 11 | Approx. 9:53 PM PDT
Spectators can witness a classic Pony Express-style handoff at this iconic Sierra junction. Riders swiftly change horses in a blur of leather and dust, just as their 19th-century predecessors did on the journey east.
- **Celio Ranch** – *2820 South Upper Truckee Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA*
Thursday, June 12 | Approx. 10:42 AM

One of the oldest working ranches in the region, Celio Ranch has deep ties to pioneer and Pony Express history. Riders will pass through the ranch as part of their journey over Echo Summit. Though primarily a working stop, the site underscores the rugged conditions and determination of original Express riders.

- **Woodfords, CA – California Handoff to Nevada Division**

Thursday, June 12 | Approx. 1:00 PM

At the historic **Woodfords Station**, the **California Division** will ceremonially pass the mochila to the **Nevada Division**, marking a key milestone on the trail. This scenic, high-elevation location is a Pony Express station eastbound in California and remains a cherished site along the route. The public is encouraged to attend, meet the riders, and take in interpretive displays about the station's history and significance.

About the National Pony Express Association (NPEA):

The **NPEA** is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of the Pony Express. Through education, reenactments, and community events, the NPEA keeps the spirit of the Old West alive for generations to come.

About the Pony Express Annual Re-Ride

The **Annual Re-Ride** is a living history event that celebrates the legacy of the **Pony Express**, which operated from **April 1860 to October 1861**. Though short-lived, the service became legendary for its daring riders, rugged terrain, and commitment to fast mail delivery across a developing nation. Spanning over **1,800 miles** across **eight states**, the **Pony Express Re-Ride** is a 24/7 non-stop relay involving hundreds of riders and horses. Commemorative letters are carried in a mochila, just as they were over 160 years ago. The re-ride is both a living history experience and a logistical achievement, preserving the spirit of the original Pony Express.

"This event bridges generations and geography," said Petra Keller, Corresponding Secretary, National Pony Express Association. "We ride to honor those fearless messengers of the past and to keep their memory alive for future generations."

Public Welcome!

Spectators are encouraged to attend the mochila exchanges, meet the riders, take photos, and engage with local Pony Express volunteers at each major stop. Forts and interpretive centers along the route will offer special programs and trail information.

Follow the ride live via GPS tracking at <https://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/>. Spectators are welcome at various handoff points and historical landmarks.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Petra Keller

Corresponding Secretary, NPEA

NationalPonyExpressMedia@gmail.com

Media Kit (incl. High-resolution photos): <https://nationalponyexpress.org/news/media-press/>

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