

WHAT TO EXPECT



- Arrival at Staging – generally it is best to arrive to the staging area on Friday, however not required it does make it easier on the animals to rest after a long trailer ride and get accustomed to the location. It also gives you time to settle in and get your gear squared away. This location is where your private vehicle will be left with all other non-essential vehicles for the week. If the trek is a loop route this is where we will return at the end, if it is a linear route vehicles will

be shuttled from here to our end point.

- Bring your own certified weed free hay for this day.
- Bring food for dinner. The cook shack will be available to refrigerate and reheat food, provide serving utensils, hot water, drinking water, and coffee.
- We may or may not sleep as “families” this night since folks tend to roll in all night and some may sleep with their animals since there is no horse watch scheduled.
- Some equines folks may choose to tie to their trailers this night as well.
- Stock water is provided.
- All 4H rules and Wagon Train policies apply upon arrival to staging.
- Check the announcements and chore list at the cook shack.



- Saturday – if you are arriving this day ensure that you are leaving yourself enough time to travel, unpack, and get prepared to head out on the trail. Times for departure, breakfast, where and when gear is to be deposited will be posted as well as announced for each day. Prepare yourself for the day’s trek, top off water bottles, pack snacks and help with getting lunches and water coolers packed and on the wagons.



- Breakfast is provided – check the chore list you may be helping.
- Generally there is a short safety meeting prior to wagons ho of a recap of essential information covered in the general meetings as well as anything that has developed since.
- Pack up bags, buckets, sleeping stuff, and family shelter and get them to their designated collection point. This is all the stuff you are taking with you on the trek but not on the daily trail.
- Tack up equines and stow horse gear in hay trailer.
- There is a hay trailer dedicated to haul hay and horse gear, there is a “rescue” trailer that is able to pick up an injured equine and also haul horse gear, there is a huge cook shack, two biffies, cargo trailer, and water trailer that are all dedicated to getting everything to the next camp while we are on the trail. This group of people and vehicles make up our “support” crew.
- Gather with your respective groups and know in advance who your group leader is. Walkers with Lead Walker, riders with Wrangler, Teamsters know your order of wagons. The order of the group is as follows: Scout and any assistants, wagons,



walkers, and outriders, followed by Ramrod. The Wagon Master is mobile and moves along the whole train.

- WAGONS HOME!!!!

- Sunday – now you’ve had a day under your belt and will start to settle into a routine. By now you should be sleeping with your families. You will find that your gear is deposited by color in piles when you arrive to camp in the evening.



- If you are a Rider or Teamster get with your group leader and find out where the stock is to be secured. It is important that everyone is grouped.
- Get with your family head and determine where the shelter is going to be placed. Help with getting it set up.
- Dinner and breakfast are served “mess hall” style with Teamsters and guests eating first. The “Chow” bell will summon everyone.
- Your plate and utensils should all be attached to one another with a string or chain. Following meals we wash our plates in four step process of washing and rinsing in large tubs.
- There is meal prep, serving, and clean up duties. Make sure to check the board and know when you are scheduled.



- Monday – by this time you are probably noticing the unique odors of being on the trail for three days. We always strive to leave a campsite cleaner than when we found it but don’t necessarily have the best personal hygiene habits ourselves. We follow the “Leave No Trace” ethics as well as abiding by all Forest Service, BLM, and State Forestry requirements.



- Each wagon also has a trowel, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper to use while out on the trail. There is a training session at a general meeting covering how to properly dispose of human waste in the backcountry.
- Equine folks use “tree savers”, highlines, weed free hay, and scatter manure to minimize impact to the environment.
- Generally walkers have a great reputation for picking up lots of trash on their hike. All trash is hauled out daily by support on the supply runs into town.
- Support takes two mobile biffies ahead to each nights campsite. There are 6 individual stalls with flush toilets and outside sinks with running water. These are emptied daily in town at approved RV dump sites.
- Amongst the families there is generally some sort of assortment of portable changing rooms as well as solar showers. Bring your solar shower, portable wash basin, wash cloths, and most important biodegradable soap for some “creature comforts”. Baby wipes also are excellent items to bring even on the trail.
- There are also some opportunities during layover activities to learn how to do some “old fashion” laundry.



- Tuesday – you made it!!!! Today is lay over, a day of rest from the trail and a time to take part in crafts, activities, and family games.



- Generally there are many activities scheduled for the day including guest speakers, crafts, horse games, and other pioneer activities. Check the board for a schedule of events. None of the activities are mandatory.
- Family members are encouraged to come visit during layover day and are welcome to join us for activities and dinner.
- Concluding there is a talent show where everyone is welcome to participate in skits, music, and any other talent you want to show off.



- Wednesday – time to dust off the boots and hit the trail again. You may have acquired some bumps and bruises by now and surely blisters if you have been walking. Depending on the weather as well you might have a sun burn or have gotten a headache from not drinking enough water. Rest assured a certified paramedic accompanies us throughout the trip with the same equipment carried on an ambulance.



- On any given trip there are a number of retired EMT's, Paramedics, and certified nurses.
- All adult leadership has short range radios to stay in contact with each other while on the trail.
- We carry a satellite phone and regular cell phones.
- Our whereabouts and specific locations are known in advance by the permitting agency and the local emergency services provider.
- Should an accident or incident occur there are action plans in place to follow.



- Thursday – well you are getting the hang of this now. It is probably a good time to start writing down things in a notebook, if you haven't already started a journal, that are working for you or you need to pack more of next year. There are 4H and Wagon Train requirements for attire. Please see 4H dress code for specifics.



- It is imperative to cover or shade skin, long sleeve loose shirts, hats with brims, and loose long pants work well. However shorts are allowed amongst the walkers and in camp, just remember your sunscreen.
- Closed toe shoes are required even in camp. With all the equines around you never know when you may be called to help with them. Water shoes are required when taking part in any water activity.
- Riders must wear long pants and boots or shoes designed for riding that have a heel. Youth must wear an approved riding helmet when riding an equine or riding in a wagon; adults are also encouraged to wear helmets though not required.



- Layover day or anytime during the trek it is voluntary to wear authentic pioneer attire.
- Pack extra socks, plan on changing them twice a day. Walkers need sturdy hiking shoes/boots not tennis shoes.
- Pack shirts, underwear, socks, and pants/shorts in daily baggies, making them easy to find each day.
- Don't forget sleeping, swimming, and lounging attire and even warm clothes for those frigid nights.
- Friday – today is Junior Day. On this day the junior leadership that has been shadowing the adult leadership all week will take the reins. Juniors attend Board meetings with their counterpart and work alongside them during Tune Up and the Trek learning their positions.



- Youth are encouraged to hand out buttons and recognize any adults for outstanding contributions. Consequently youth are able to earn buttons all week for their outstanding contributions as well.
- Each night everyone gathers sometime after dinner to recap the days events, discuss the next day, and present these youth with their reward. This is called Family Circle.

- Saturday – this is it the end you made it. Looking back here is a recap of some other things that take place on a regular basis that are scheduled daily. Check the board frequently to see where you are scheduled to assist with these responsibilities.



- Horse Watch – this occurs overnight every night. A small group makes rounds from 10pm to midnight to check for any loose or entangled equines. After 10pm a small group of family members camps relatively close to where the equines are secured. They sleep however their proximity allows them to awaken easily should there be a problem. This group sleeps amongst the equines from 10pm to wake up. From 4am to 6pm individual Teamsters take turns each day making regular rounds during that two hour period checking for any issues.
- Chores – chores are posted daily so check the board. There are different shifts for horse watch, for dinner and breakfast there are kitchen assistants, servers, and clean up duty.

- THANK YOU and have a safe trip home.
- We can be found at www.4hwagontrain.org or like us on Facebook or contact us directly at 4hwagontrain@gmail.com.

