



EDETF MOUNTED TRAIL PATROL

PURPOSE & DUTY STATEMENT

The El Dorado Equestrian Trail Foundation (EDETF) has authorized a sub-unit to perform mounted trail patrol in the Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest. The purpose of the Mounted Trail Patrol (MTP) is to augment the regular patrols by the Forest Service (FS) into all areas of the national forest.

The members will provide mounted patrol under the direction of the assigned Forest Service staff. They will report problems, observations, and trail conditions to the Forest Service.

Members will provide information and assistance to National Forest visitors concerning trail conditions, directions, campground and day use fees, regulations, and other questions.

The Mounted Trail Patrol will assist in fire detection and searching for lost persons. The patrol will also provide information to Forest Service staff on illegal off-road vehicle activities, illegal camping activities, hazardous trail conditions, and vandalism.

GENERAL RULES

Qualifications: All members of the Mounted Trail Patrol must be at least 18 years of age, complete an agreement, complete a qualifying ride on any horse they use for trail patrol, be familiar with the national forest trails, and must observe all Forest Service regulations and EDETF MPT rules.

Availability: Each member must be available for a minimum of 12 rides per year. At least one patrol ride per month during the dry season (when trails are open) is required, and patrols should be for a minimum of 2-3 hours. There is no maximum number of patrols, and members are encouraged to patrol as often as they wish to. In addition, members must participate in one authorized EDETF or Forest Service work party per year.

Reporting: Each member is to report his/her monthly rides to the EDETF MPT coordinator, and to the Forest Service. Reports submitted by email on an Excel spreadsheet are preferred. The format for the report will be provided by the MPT coordinator. Information reported includes the name of horse and rider, the date of each patrol, the trails or locations patrolled, number of hours patrolled, trail conditions, and problems encountered such as down trees, missing signs, vandalism, litter, etc; and any additional

work performed such as trimming back vegetation, litter pickup, etc. If the trail patrol member does not have email access, reports can be submitted over the phone or by letter.

Safety: Before starting a patrol ride, members are encouraged to call the Forest Service at (530) 333-4312, to inform the Forest Service of their name, location of ride, start time, and planned ending time of ride. If the ride is called in, members must also call in at the end of the ride to inform FS staff of their safe return. The purpose of calling in is for the rider's safety if they wish someone to know they are out on the trails; however, it is not mandatory and is up to the rider's own discretion. MPT members are also encouraged, but not required, to ride with another rider (does not have to be MPT member), and/or a two-way radio. Members are encouraged to maintain current certification to administer CPR/BLS/First Aid.

Liability and Insurance: As a Forest Service volunteer, any MPT member who is accidentally injured while on patrol is covered by the Forest Service for medical expenses related to the injury, provided the member was following basic safety procedures. Accidents and injuries must be reported to the Forest Service within 24 hours of occurrence, and a claim form (available from the FS) submitted. Horse is not covered. If riding with friends and family who are not qualified MPT members, only the patrol members are covered by the insurance.

Uniforms: Optional uniforms consist of a green vest with Forest Service volunteer patches, a blue shirt with patches, and a green jacket with patches. Vests and patches may be provided by the FS. Shirts and jackets must be provided by members at their own expense. A safety-approved helmet is required and must be worn for all rides.

Membership and Dues: Active membership in the EDETF must be maintained in order to participate in the Mounted Trail Patrol. Any member who does not maintain membership in EDETF will be dropped from the mounted trail patrol. The member may reapply as a new member the following year if an opening exists, or when an opening occurs thereafter.

Mounts: Each rider must be qualified on each horse they will patrol on. Any new horse must qualify. A member may qualify multiple horses.

NEW MOUNTED PATROL MEMBERS

New members will be taken by earliest date of qualification. Qualifications for this purpose shall consist of satisfying completion of a qualification ride.

From the time of official membership, a designated ride must be completed for each remaining month in accordance with general rules.

The new member must receive instruction on Forest Service policy. This instruction will be periodically given by the Forest Service.

Upon completion of qualification requirements and acceptance into the unit, each new member may obtain **EDET** shoulder patches and other uniform items as needed, along with recommended safety equipment (see below).

QUALIFICATION RIDE

General:

Horse and rider must be in sound physical condition (unsoundness will be grounds for immediate disqualification if considered of a permanent nature).

Horse and rider will be evaluated as a team. Only one rider/horse combination may qualify at one time.

Performance Objectives:

Rider Must:

Be able to travel at a brisk walk for 20 minutes on foot.

Demonstrate knowledge of Forest Service regulations.

Be in control of horse at all times.

Prevent horse from crowding at all times.

Horse Must:

Be an actual four-year or older.

Be a mare or gelding- NO stallions.

Stand quietly while being mounted/dismounted from either side.

Stand quietly while the mounted rider holds on to another horse.

Stand quietly while tied.

Pony another horse and be ponied.

Back readily.

Negotiate difficult trail obstacles such as steep terrain, logs, water, bridges, runners, hikers, motorbikes, mountain bikes, and other horses.

Lead well in difficult terrain and over obstacles.

Be under the rider's control while riding with a group of 3 or more horses at all gaits.

Be separated from a group of 3 or more horses and remain under control.

A horse will automatically be disqualified if it shows chronic behavior problems such as running away, bucking, rearing, kicking, biting, or any other dangerous behavior.

Qualification Procedure:

A two-person team of active MPT members will conduct each qualifying ride and evaluate each applicant.

The MPT coordinator will schedule qualifying rides as needed. New members interested in joining the MPT should contact the coordinator to schedule a qualifying ride.

The MPT coordinator is responsible for maintaining records of member's requirements and to notify member of non-compliance with requirements.

INACTIVE STATUS

If a member is unable to patrol for an extended period of time, he/she must notify the MPT coordinator. The member will then be placed on inactive status. The duration of the inactive status may not exceed one year.

EQUIPMENT TO CARRY

While on patrol, each member should carry the following:

1. First Aid kit
2. Pliers
3. Maps of the trails.
4. Tablet & pencil
5. Folding pocketknife
6. Compass or GPS

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULES

If a member fails to patrol the minimum of 12 annual patrols, fails to submit monthly reports to the ranger and unit coordinator, fails to accomplish the required work party, or fails to maintain current EDETF membership, the member will be removed from the mounted trail patrol unit.

Forest service and MPT rules and regulations must be observed at all times. Deviations from the rules may result in the member being asked to leave the mounted trail patrol unit.



EL DORADO MOUNTED TRAIL PATROL
AGREEMENT STATEMENT

By signing this form, I agree to all the rules as stated above.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Fax _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Name(s) of Horse(s) Qualified: _____

Thanks!