**Introductory Ride Information**

The introductory ride mirrors an actual endurance ride but is of a lessor distance (approximately 16 miles). You must arrive the day before, in order to vet in, and camp with your horse, to enjoy the full ride experience.

**Prerequisites:** Before bringing a horse to an Intro ride, he/she must have a few basic skills established for the safety of you and the staff.

* Practice having other people touch your horse all over especially around the mouth, legs, girth area, behind the rib cage, and butt/anal area.
* Practice mounting from natural objects out on trail (rocks, boulders, logs)
* Horse needs to be presented with some form of a headstall/halter on for control

**Vetting in your horse before the ride is now a requirement for an Intro ride.** The vets leave for the away vet checks at 6:30 Saturday morning so will not have time to vet in Intro riders the day of the ride. IF you cannot come in Friday afternoon/evening, you MUST talk to Diane Connolly directly in advance: DCConnolly24@gmail.com or 703-505-7132

**Pre-registration and full payment postmarked on or before JUNE 1st is required**, so we can plan for the Intro ride. **To register:** Please select the Saturday entry form on the website and or the online form to register. After you complete the registration form, Teri will send you a short questionnaire to learn more about your experience level.

Teri Carrol, your group leader, will **meet with ALL Intro riders on Friday, June 9th at 7:00 PM**  at the Hospitality Tent to discuss the details of the trail, explain vet checks and other requirements of an endurance ride.

**The Intro ride will begin at 7:30 AM on Saturday June 10th**. **(TIME CHANGE)**

Helmets are required, and horses **must have hoof protection (shoes or boots) ON ALL FOUR FEET**. **YOU MUST LEAVE THE HOOF PROTECTION ON THROUGHOUT THE RIDE!** Shoes are preferred by ride management. But if you choose to use boots, **you must have used them prior to the ride**, to make sure they fit properly and will stay on your horse.

When you arrive at the away vet check you’ll be shown crewing techniques and how to present your horse to the vets. Your horse will be vetted and cleared to continue at which point you will have a short 20-minute hold time. You will probably be required to unsaddle and re-saddle your horse at the vet check so be prepared. At this point you will return to basecamp and receive a final vet check followed by a post ride meeting to answer any questions you might have.

**Directions to Ride:**

**Coming from the North** on I-81 South, take Exit 273 (Mt. Jackson), take a right at the top of the ramp onto Mt. Jackson Rd. Go to the T, take a left onto Rte 614 for 1.1 miles, then a right (west) onto Rt 263 (Orkney Grade). Stay on 263 for about 11 miles, taking it slow on the winding, downhill grade as you enter Orkney Springs. As the grade levels out, take your first left onto Happy Valley Road (there’s board fence on your left as you approach the turn, and a cluster of white buildings directly beyond the turn). Go ½ mile; turn right at right hand bend in road, go to the end of the base camp field and turn left into the driveway to camp.

**Coming from the South** on I-81 North, take Exit 269 (to avoid traffic in Mount Jackson), turn right off exit ramp and then left onto Rte 11 North, continue about 2 miles, then turn left onto Rte 263, following this road about 11 miles until you reach Orkney Springs. Follow the above directions from that point.

For questions about the Introductory Ride, you may contact Teri Carrol at tericarroll6735@gmail.com