

# Durango Cowboy Gathering



Horses are majestic animals central to the history of the American west and the Durango Cowboy Gathering. Unlike the majority of events that eliminate any possibility of risk, the Cowboy Parade and Horseback Social embrace the independence and personal responsibility required of all participants, both human and horse. All horseback riders must review, understand, and comply with the following:

## Horsemanship Goals

1. Safety for riders, spectators, horses, and property.
2. Preserve, celebrate, and promote our western heritage and culture.
3. Build camaraderie and respect between our urban and rural communities.
4. Educate and inform locals and visitors about cowboy, rural, and agricultural life.
5. Establish a long-term signature event for Durango and La Plata County.
6. Minimize risk, maximize FUN! **Please take care of each other.**
7. COMMUNITY-WIDE PARTICIPATION!

## Entry Requirements

1. Liability waiver, assumption of risk, photography waiver, and **rules compliance** forms must be signed before entering the riding area.
2. Parent or legal guardian must sign for their own child under the age of 18. Other adults are not allowed to sign on behalf of a minor.
3. Riders ages 12 or younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times during the event,
4. Riders must wear official wristband during the event to participate, and
5. Personal Entries Only – No “Rental” Participants (i.e., Outfitters cannot sell ridership in the Cowboy Parade or Horseback Social to “dudes”).

## Sportsmanship

1. NO Political messaging of any kind for:
  - Candidates and Parties
  - Ballot Initiatives
  - National / International ConflictDistributing informational literature is permitted.
2. NO Attack literature or materials.
3. NO Alcohol use, advertising, etc.
4. Open Carry Firearms, including rifles in scabbard, are allowed in the Cowboy Parade but NOT in the Horseback Social.
5. ALL décor, behavior, etc. must be appropriate for children, families, and my MOM.
6. **Attitude – Everyone is welcome and invited.**

## Horse and Rider Safety Requirements

1. **Compatible disposition and behavior.** Is your horse ready for downtown?
  - It is vital that riders use good judgment in determining whether their horse is the age, experience, and temperament that's compatible with other horses, people, and the activity of the Cowboy Parade and Horseback Social.
  - Stud horses are not permitted.
2. **Walk horse at all times.** No running, trotting, galloping, etc.
3. Rider must be mounted or leading their horse at all times.
  - No tying up horses anywhere except to owner's trailer. Do not tie horses to signposts, parking meters, buildings, street barricades, bumpouts, etc.
  - Horses that are outside the trailer, even if tied, must not be left unattended.
4. **Helmets are welcomed and encouraged,** but the decision is the responsibility of each rider (and parents if under age 18).
5. It is recommended to remove horseshoes to increase traction on asphalt.
6. Horses **MUST** be on city streets or in trailer at all times. Horses prohibited on sidewalks, lawns, parks, and private property.
7. Creativity in attire, tack, and decorations of horse / rider are welcome as long as they comply with the Sportsmanship rules above, including:
  - Portable music devices are allowed in the Cowboy Parade, but not in the Horseback Social.
  - No noisemakers
  - Flags are permitted in the Cowboy Parade, but not in the Horseback Social.
  - Do not bring items that could spook another horse in close proximity.
8. Riders must agree they will exit the riding area and return to trailer if requested to do so by an event official or police. This will be applied in the case of unruly horse and / or rider or rules violations.
9. Only horses, mules, burros, asses (the animal kind) are permitted in the Horseback Social. **Dogs or other animals are not permitted in the Horseback Social.**
10. Llamas, alpacas, cattle, goats, zebras, giraffes, dogs, or any other such critters are permitted in the Cowboy Parade as long as the animal is "parade ready" and is safe around other parade participants, both animal and human.

## Horsemanship Committee

The Horsemanship Requirements have been reviewed and approved by local experts on behalf of the Durango Cowboy Gathering and the City of Durango. Committee Members:

- **Krii Black** – Chair; L-J Ranch and Secretary of the LaPlata-Archuleta Cattlemen's Association.
- **Denney Schilthuis** – Former La Plata County Sheriff and outfitter.
- **Emmy GreyEyes** – Owner / Operator of Bears Ranch Stables.
- **Haley Chumley** – Manager; Tuxon Ranch.
- **Joaquin Huntington** – Owner / Operator of Huntington Ranches and professional team roper.
- **Jon Sherer** – Trails Chairman, Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen and local Farmers Insurance agent.

- **Kenna Patcheck** - Ranch hand and guide for Weminuche Wilderness Outfitters and barrel racing champion.
- **Ben Hufnagel, DVM** – Cowboy Gathering Veterinarian