

Horse & Rider Requirements

Horses are majestic animals central to the history of the American west and the Durango Cowboy Gathering. 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:

Schedule – October 3, 2026:

7:00 – 9:00 AM **Truck / Trailer Parking** on 2nd Avenue.

NOTE: Vehicles without a horse trailer may unload gear and passengers but must park elsewhere to maximize truck / trailer parking.

Trucks & trailers must be removed no later than 12 noon.

8:00 – 10:00 AM **Check-in Tables Open for pickup of parade entry number**

- 3 locations: 2nd Ave at 8th St. or 5th Ave at 4th St. or 5th St. & Main
- **All Horseback Social & Parade entries & releases must have been completed by Wednesday, September 30 via the Durango Cowboy Gathering website at <https://durangocowboygathering.org/cowboy-parade-and-horseback-social/>**

8:30 – 10:00 AM **Horseback Social:** Enter Main from 2nd Ave. via 7th Street only. No entry number or check-in is required.

10:30 AM **Cowboy Parade:** Line up no later than 10 AM on 5th Street according to your entry number. Parade begins on Main Ave. at College Drive and ends at 12th St. There should be no gaps between entries regardless of what your number is. Walking entries and some wagon entries will file into position near the train station when their number comes up.

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. Minimize risk, maximize FUN! **Please take care of each other.**
5. No throwing any items to spectators per City ordinance. You may hand items only.

Entry Requirements

1. **Participation & Release Forms must be signed and submitted online by Wednesday, September 30th.**
2. Parent or legal guardian must sign for their own child under the age of 18. Riders ages 12 or younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times.
3. Owner 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, literature, or materials of any kind for:
 - Candidates and Parties
 - Ballot Initiatives
 - National / International political issuesAttack literature or materials are prohibited.
2. NO advertising or use of alcohol, drugs, or anything illegal.
3. Open carry firearms are allowed, but they must be unloaded.
4. ALL décor, behavior, etc. must be appropriate for children and families.

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. **No wagons in Horseback Social** due to insufficient space for turning around.
4. **No walkers in Horseback Social.** All humans must be mounted for safety reasons.
5. **No unattended horses** unless they are left inside a trailer.
6. **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, bump-outs, etc.
7. **Helmets are welcomed and encouraged**, but the decision is the responsibility of each rider (and their parents if under age 18).
8. Horses should have **proper hoof-wear** to provide for traction on asphalt.
9. **Horses MUST be on city streets or in trailer at all times.** Horses prohibited on sidewalks, lawns, parks, and / or private property.
10. **Creativity in attire, tack, and decorations** of horse / rider is welcome as long as it complies 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.
11. **Riders must agree** that they will exit the riding area and return to their trailer if requested to do so by an event official or police. This will be applied in the case of an unruly horse and / or rider or rules violations.
12. **Only horses, mules and burros** are permitted in the Horseback Social.
13. **Llamas, alpacas, cattle, goats or dogs** are permitted in the Cowboy Parade as long as the animal is "parade ready" and is safe around other parade participants.