

# Etiquette for All:

## *Don't use wet trails.*

If you are leaving prints (hoof, tire, or boot), the trail is too wet to use. When approaching muddy spots, go through the center of the mud to keep the trail narrow.

Visit [bouldermountainbike.org](http://bouldermountainbike.org) to find or update current trail conditions.

## *Stay on the trail.*

Do not go off trail (even to pass), create new trails, or cut switchbacks. Narrow trails mean less environmental impact and happier critters.

## *Respect.*

It's a simple concept: if you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. All user groups have rights and responsibilities to Boulder's trails, and to each other.

## *Don't block trail.*

When taking a break, move to the side of the trail.

## *Smile. Greet. Nod.*

Every user on the trail is a fellow nature lover. Be friendly and expect to see other folks around every corner.

## What does "yield" mean?

Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary, and pass in a safe and friendly manner.

## Great communities

## build trails, and great trails build community.

That's the mission of Boulder Mountainbike Alliance – to improve the trail experience for everyone in Boulder County, Colorado through social rides and events, advocacy, and trail building and maintenance.



[BoulderMountainbike.org](http://BoulderMountainbike.org)

## Pass it on!

When you're done reading, pass this flyer off to a friend. Help us spread the word so that all trail users are working from the same playbook.

Hike • Horse • Bike





## Hikers

### What can you expect?

**Faster trail users.** Bikers, runners, and equestrians approaching from behind will often say, “On your left.” This means you should stay to your right.

**Bikers yield to hikers.** It is the responsibility of cyclists to pass at a safe speed. Offer friendly communication to let the rider know when it’s safe to pass: give a verbal acknowledgement, step to the side of the trail or wave the rider by on wider trail.

### What is your responsibility?

**Share the trail.** When hiking in a group, hike single file or take no more than half a wide trail. Make sure everyone in your group understands what actions to take when encountering hikers, bikers and horses.

**Don’t tune out.** If you wear headphones, keep the volume down or only wear one earpiece so other trail users don’t startle you.

**Keep a short leash on your dog when passing (or being passed by) horses, cyclists, or other hikers.** Remember that other trail users may be frightened by dogs or be unsure how to pass safely.

#### **Yield to horses.**

1. **Stay downhill.** Spooked horses go uphill.
2. **Greet the rider.** Horses can perceive hikers wearing tall backpacks as dangerous predators. Your voice establishes your humanity.”
3. **Ask how to proceed.** If hiking with a child, hold their hand when passing.



## Equestrians

### What can you expect?

**Inexperienced trail users.** While all trail users yield to horses, many users are intimidated by large horses, or they just don’t know what to do.

### What is your responsibility?

**Manage your animals.** Don’t school green horses on high-traffic or shared-use trails. Familiarize horses with expected trail encounters (cyclists, dogs, backpack-wearing hikers, etc.).

#### **Negotiate safe passes.**

1. **Greet users early.** Hikers and bikers yield to horses, but many novice trail-users are intimidated by horses or don’t know what to do.
2. **Guide** trail users to move downhill of the trail.
3. **Continue** communication until the pass is complete.
4. **Expect the unexpected.** Small children, animals and the elderly can be unpredictable or easily frightened by horses.



## Mountain Bikers

### What can you expect?

**Surprised trail users.** Fast moving users can startle others, especially when approaching from behind. Always ride under control, anticipate users around blind corners, and be exceedingly friendly and communicative.

### What is your responsibility?

**Mountain bikers yield to hikers, horses and uphill traffic.**

#### **Passing Hikers:**

1. **Greet** hikers early.
2. **Slow down** to about the same speed as the hiker.
3. **Pass slowly** and be prepared to stop if necessary.
4. **Expect the unexpected.** Humans and animals can be unpredictable or easily spooked by cyclists.

#### **Passing cyclists:**

1. **Announce** your intention to pass with a friendly “Let me know when it’s safe to pass.”
2. **Use the singletrack yield** on narrow trail – stop to the side, put one foot down, and lean away from the trail.

#### **Passing horses:**

1. **Stop** at least 30 feet from the horse.
2. **Greet** the equestrian *and* the horse to demonstrate that you are a human, and not a predator.
3. **Ask for instruction** on how to pass safely. Offer to get off your bike.
4. **Pass slowly** and steadily, but only after the equestrian gives you the go-ahead. Sudden movements can spook a horse.