

# Kalamazoo County 4-H

## Trail Riding Project Guidelines

### Horse Project Leaders:

Cooper - Bekah Coburn  
Hickory Corners - Kim Berggren & Amy Newman  
Richland – Sarah Balkema  
Tri- United -Pam VanDongen  
VB Wild Mustangs and Mini horse - Julie Sheppard  
Wild Wranglers – Samantha Bierman

### Project Social Media:

Cooper - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422514501278199>  
Hickory Corners -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/858063144249820>  
Richland - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/778263852547747>  
Tri-United - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KalamazooTri.United4H>  
VB Wild Mustangs -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197891810388721>  
Wild Wranglers – N/A

### Trail Riding Project Objectives & Life Skills\*

- Learn the benefits of trail riding for your horse and yourself.
- Learn how to find appropriate trails for your riding group.
- Head
  - Problem Solving
  - Record Keeping
  - Service Learning
  - Decision Making
- Heart
  - Social Skills
  - Cooperation
  - Communication
  - Nurturing Relationships
- Hands
  - Responsible Citizenship
  - Teamwork
  - Self-motivation
  - Leadership
- Health
  - Self-responsibility
  - Self-discipline
  - Disease Prevention
  - Personal Safety

*\*note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

### Additional Resources

[Shop 4-H - Horse curriculum](#)  
[Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations](#)  
[Trail riding - OSU](#)

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## **Trail Riding Project**

### **Guidelines:**

- Members must attend all project meetings, register for the trail project, and complete a minimum of one trail ride per project year.
- Members may create a notebook, poster, or 3-D exhibit to display about Horse trail riding under Department 16, Section B
- Rules that must be followed during trail riding.
  - All 4-H rules are in effect.
  - All riders are required to wear an ASTM approved riding helmet.
  - Appropriate dress is required.
  - No tennis or athletic shoes. Shoes must have heels and be suitable for riding.
  - Plan your ride and ride your plan.
  - Stay on the planned trail. No short cuts or sidetracks.
  - Agree as to whether you plan to walk, trot, or canter your horses.
  - Tell companions before you increase speed.
  - Be a safe and courteous rider.
  - Do not exceed the comfort level of any member of the group that you are riding with.
  - Use a buddy system and stay with the group.
  - Participants under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  - Inform others of trail hazards as you become aware of them. (low branches, holes, etc.)
  - No racing or horse play.
  - Halter must be worn over the bridle.
  - No stallions.
  - If your horse is apt to kick, tie a red ribbon on your horse's tail.