

Introductory Ride Information

The Fort Valley Introductory Ride is similar to an actual endurance ride but covers a shorter distance (approximately 16 miles). Portions of the trail are quite rocky, and there are some steep climbs and downhills. Please be sure that your horse is fit enough for this type of exertion. The pace will be slower than that of an actual endurance ride, so expect to be on trail 3-4 hours. The trail will begin and end at basecamp.

Helmets are required, and horses **must have hoof protection (shoes or boots) ON ALL FOUR FEET**. Shoes are preferred by ride management. 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.

You must arrive the day before, in order to vet in, and camp with your horse, to enjoy the full ride experience. You should attend the dinner (included with your entry fee) and ride briefing, because you will learn a lot from listening to the instructions given to the endurance competitors.

Vetting in your horse before the ride is now a requirement for an Intro ride. It is also an opportunity to get some tips from the vet on how to pace yourself and take care of your horse on the trail.

Karen Wade, your group leader, will **meet with ALL Intro riders on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM** to discuss the details of the trail, explain vet checks and other requirements of an endurance ride. The Intro Ride will begin at 11:00 AM Saturday morning.

When you return to basecamp, you will receive a final vet check followed by a post ride meeting to answer any questions you might have. You will also receive a completion award!

Pre-registration and full payment postmarked on or before October 18th is required, so we can plan for the Intro Ride.

Directions:

I-81 (north or south) – At Exit 279 turn east on Hwy 675 for 1 mile to Hwy 11, turn left on Hwy 11 for ½ mile to the Jeep car dealer, turn right on Hwy 675 over the mountain for 5 ½ miles to the Kings Crossing Junction, then turn left on Hwy 678 and go approximately 8 miles to Seven Fountains Road opposite Dietrick store, turn right on Seven Fountains Road for 6/10ths miles, turn right onto Many Waters Road just before the concrete bridge, base camp is on the right.

I-66 – Take Exit 6 toward Front Royal, turn right onto Hwy 55. At Waterlick turn right onto Hwy 678 (to Fort Valley) for approximately 13 miles to the second Seven Fountains Road opposite Dietrick store, turn left on the second Seven Fountains Road for 6/10ths miles, turn right onto Many Waters Road just before the concrete bridge, base camp is on the right.

For questions about the Introductory Ride, please contact Karen Wade at kew@shentel.net or (540) 877-2371.