

Sensory Preparation

A sensory CD can be used to acquaint your horse with sensory noise and excitement. Rider and horse should try to ride with correct and relaxed form, showing little tension for either rider or horse as they ride in harmony to the horse's relaxed movements. Many of the sensory tasks are done while the rider and horse are in the arena alone. The list of sensory items may change with each training session.

Basic Sensory Skills:

The horse should be able to:

- Stand quietly for mounting
- Walk, halt, and back in an easy manner
- Walk, trot and lope/canter—with smooth transition between gaits.

Advanced Sensory Skills:

- Ask your horse to push three attached barrels with their shoulder
- Walk up to and retreat from blowing fans with attached streamers

Sensory Items:

While riding your horse:

- Stand quietly alone in a tent
- Walk over a bridge
- Walk through an aisle way made of police tape
- Back through an "L" made from 2x4's or landscaping timers
- Walk quietly through tires (without the rims)
- Walk on a tarp covered with pop cans
- Pull a weighted sled
- Walk through a pool of water
- Move a beach ball with a broom
- Put on and remove a slicker
- Carry a flag



To Prepare for Parades and Crowd Control:

Horse should be at ease and walk at ease around:

- Flapping umbrellas and waving helium balloons
- A moving police car using its siren
- Smoldering fire and smoke blowing in the breeze
- Advance and retreat from a gun shooting blank bullets
- Ride next to, in front of, or behind a mini horse pulling a cart

Searching Exercises:

Horse and rider must be able to:

- Walk quietly on a loose rein while rider is looking at the ground for clues
- Walk quietly stirrup to stirrup with other horses as members search large sections of an area while riding in a straight line
- Ride in a strange area with one or more members while under rider's command

Carlton County Mounted Posse



May 2008



Welcome to the Posse

Congratulations!

As a new member of the Carlton County Mounted Posse there will be a lot of hard work but great satisfaction in being a member. Any time you have a question, please feel free to ask any member of the posse. This will give you insight into posse procedures and the opportunity to find the right place for you. A buddy system will be set up to guide you through the introduction and learning process of becoming a posse member.



Mission Statement

The Carlton County Sheriff's Mounted Posse was formed in 1995 at the request and under the direction of the Carlton County Sheriff. The Posse is a non-profit organization independent from the Carlton County Sheriff's Office.

The Posse's primary function is to assist with searches and public relations. It is also the function of the Posse to promote good horsemanship, sportsmanship and safety practices within our community.

Although an independent organization, the Posse serves under the supervision of the Carlton County Sheriff's Office and may be called to serve as directed by the Sheriff. In whatever function requested to serve, the mission of the Posse is to cooperate with all law enforcement officers and agencies in the safety and preservation of all human life.

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Important Points

You are not a police officer tasked with enforcing the laws as a primary function. Your primary responsibility is to assist law enforcement by being observant, noting crimes or violations and advising police of the situation.

When dealing with the public, always remain calm and in control. Let them know you are capable and have the confidence to do the job.

The Carlton County Mounted Posse does have by-laws that need to be adhered to. **Make it a point to read the by-laws when you get them and ask any questions you may have.**

Posse members are strictly forbidden to consume alcohol while in uniform or an official posse events.

Attendance Policy

Active members shall participate in:

- At least 60% of the horse related events
- 75% of the meetings, and
- 60% of the non-horse events



In a calendar year unless excused. To receive an excused absence a member must contact an attending member prior to the meeting or event. Three unexcused absences within one year will require an appearance before the Executive Board who will ascertain the member's interest and future participation in the Posse.

Uniforms and Horse Equipment

Official uniforms should be worn at Carlton County Mounted Posse events with the exception of the Trail Ride. Uniforms including jackets should only be worn for posse events.

Helmets are strongly recommended at all riding events.

- Parades**—The rider needs to wear dress uniform, boots, helmet. The horse needs reflective leg wrap, posse saddle blanket, breast collars
- Patrol**—The rider needs to wear dress uniform, boots, western hat, radio, flashlight. Additional equipment needed—posse saddle blanket and reflective leg wraps in the p.m.
- Emergency Response**—The rider needs a radio, flashlight, work boots, uniform shirt and pants, uniform jacket, and first aid kit.
- Directing Traffic**—Reflective orange vest. The horse needs posse saddle blanket and appropriate leg gear.
- Saddle Bag items**—Personal comfort items for horse and rider, first aid gear.

Mounted Posse—Chain of Command

The Posse functions under the direction of the Sheriff. Internally, the **Captain** directs the posse as a group. The chain of command within the Posse needs to be followed. If you become aware of an opportunity of any sort for the Posse, you must advise the Posse Captain. The Captain must contact/advise the Sheriff.

Captain—Directs the meetings and generally oversees events the posse is involved in.
First Lieutenant—Assists the Captain with administrative duties and other responsibilities as directed.

Second Lieutenant—Keeps a well maintained record of the posse members at events to keep with the attendance policy; assists Captain in any event.

Sergeant—Maintains order at all functions; inspects all members and their mounts at all public events; and responsible for disbursement of all official equipment.

Treasurer—Keeps and maintains an account of all monies received and disbursed.

Insurance Coverage

In order for you and your horse to be covered by county insurance during an event under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office, our participation at an event must be authorized by the Sheriff or her designee. This can be done by telephone, radio, or in person. Either the event coordinator or a posse officer does this. You must check in and out before and after an event.

Calendar Events

At the March or April meeting, a calendar will be passed out to let each member plan what events they can participate in.

Sensory Testing

Each spring Posse horses will be tested for stability and safety.

- Each horse will be required to demonstrate a walk, trot and extended gait on cue.
- There will be a series of obstacles, which can include tires, a tent, ramp and shallow water crossing.
- Horses will be exposed to the sound of shots, flares, smoke and a police siren.

Each event is based on safety. Each horse will be given a pass or fail grade. If the horse fails, re-testing is an option that is available on another day. The buddy you are assigned to will help you prepare for this event.

All Posse horses must pass the sensory test to be involved in posse events.