

San Marcos Parks & Trails Volunteer Program
Mounted Patrol Criteria & Assessment

Rider Criteria

- Provide and ride your own horse
- Be available for and attend required trainings and meetings
- Successfully complete horse/rider assessment

Horse Criteria

- Must be of gentle temperament
- Must have regular vet checks
- Must have up to date vaccinations

Horse/Rider Assessment

The horse and rider are required to participate in an assessment to demonstrate handling and riding proficiency, equestrian techniques, safety methods and responses. Examples of general skills to be evaluated: mount/dismount; bridle, saddle and tie; lead and ride at walk and trot; canter to halt; rein back in straight line; side pass; 180 degree turns

Determinants

Horse Physiology & Psychology Equitation Techniques Mounted Drills Mounted Obstacles Mounted Sensory

Horse Physiology & Psychology

The thought process and resulting behaviors of the horse are examined including observing and assessing how it relates to the following: fight or flight situations; confidence in the rider; herd instinct; and receptivity to rider's authority.

Equitation Techniques

There must be a clear and concise methodology in the rider's communication and instructions. The horse must comprehend the signals given by the rider to perform a duty/task. The tasks in this area correlate to horse sensory and obstacle training. A combination of horse weight, balance, and body position will be evaluated.

Mounted Drill

The horse will be assessed while working alone and in groups. The horse must exhibit the instinctive ability to effectively interact with other horses and animals. The rider must demonstrate the skills to instruct and control every movement the horse makes.

Mounted Obstacles

The horse and rider must successfully negotiate obstacles such as water, barricades, fences, vehicles, bridges, curbs, changing terrains and hanging tarps. The horse must also demonstrate the ability to calmly and effectively navigate congested areas and crowd control situations.

Mounted Sensory

The use of perceived obstructions as opposed to physical obstructions will be used to evaluate horse sensory. The horse will be exposed to visual, auditory and smell challenges such as smoke, flares, vehicular and pedestrian traffic, car horns and other loud noises. The horse must demonstrate the ability to overcome and positively respond to such distractions.