

Border Coulee Competitive Trail Ride Information Sheet

BCCTR will be held September 19-21, 2025, in the beautiful Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. As the ride is in a Provincial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a protected area, there are A FEW SPECIAL RULES in addition to normal camp rules.

*Camping will be at the Writing-on-Stone rodeo grounds. (see directions below).

Ride entry fee includes camping, any non-competitors will be charged a \$25.00 camping fee, children under 12 are free. The grounds will be open Friday for rider arrival, if you need early access please call Dyan at (403)479-7223 to discuss.

*No one may leave the camping area defined by the chain link fence on the east and the river on the west. All riding will be confined to the marked trail only and only for the ride itself.

***Under no circumstances is anyone allowed near the rock art or police post** unless accompanied by park personnel. If anyone wishes to view the rock art, there are tours available. Check for tour times at the interpretive centre.

*No one may ride on the marked trail except during the ride; exceptions can only be made by ride management.

*Dogs must be on a leash and attached to their person at all times. This is rattlesnake country so keep an eye on where your dog is poking its nose. I repeat, this is rattlesnake country, please be vigilant.

Riders will be timed out based on receipt of PAID entry. If you wish to ride with someone, please note this on your entry. New riding buddies can be accommodated on the Friday but the riders will all drop to the latest number. No numbers will be moved ahead.

Ride Information

The cost of the ride is up this year. This is an expensive ride to run as we have extra fees to pay for access to this remote (read no amenities), incredible site. We pay fees to both Parks Alberta and Writing-on-Stone Rodeo Association. We pay for vets and mileage, and Porta-Potties. We provide meals for volunteers and vets, and we provide a lunch and dinner (plus assist with hosting the Sunday breakfast) for all riders. Last year we estimated that we provided 230 meals for volunteers, vets, and riders (not including the Sunday breakfast). All of our supplies must be carefully calculated and trucked in and trucked out. We feel that the sense of community that is fostered by all comers to the ride sitting down and eating an awesome meal, after a long day, is the icing on the cake and it wouldn't be a BCCTR without it.

The Novice and Intermediate rides are approximately 25 miles, the Open is approximately 50 miles, and the Introductory ride is 10-12 miles.

The Introductory Ride for this year will be only the first loop and will be approximately 10-12 miles. There will be an experienced Competitive Trail rider who will accompany the Introductory group on their ride. Riders who are confident may ride ahead and any new comers, who are unsure of pacing or terrain, may choose to ride with the guide.

The Introductory riders will leave the camp after the competitive riders have gone.

Please note that the Intro Ride is to be done at the walk/trot level. It is not a trail ride.

The vetting in for riders will take place starting at 4:00pm on Friday.

The ride meeting will start when Trail Boss Sue Wensink has her maps set and she is prepared to share. The meeting will be by the main tent area and will be signalled by three car horn blasts.

This ride is the most technical of the rides and the terrain can be challenging. Be prepared for at least two river crossings per loop.

*****Please remember, always safety first and it's a good idea to ride with safety equipment such as a whistle and basic first aid kit.

Camp Information

*Take your trash home and pick up any other trash that may have been missed!

*Tidy your campsite and take unused or soiled feed and bedding home with you.

*Spread your manure.

*If you move a picnic table to your site, please return it to its original position as per Rodeo Association request.

*Saturday lunch and supper provided only for riders, volunteers, and vets. Additional meals may be purchased for your family or guests for \$25.00/meal. Please let us know in advance if extra meals are needed so that we can plan for them.

Breakfast on Sunday morning is hosted by Neil and his group from Moose Mountain Horseback Adventures. If you're in camp, come over for an always amazing extravaganza!

*Rob is always cooking something and if you are short on food, come and talk to us. Rob must have been an Italian grandmother in another life, he can't stand to see anyone who is hungry.

*The camping site has no amenities other than Porta-Potties. There are no hookups and limited, non potable water is available. The river is close to the campsite and if there is sufficient flow, it's a good place to water your horse. To take pressure off of our limited supplies, please bring in some water of your own.

*If you have forgotten anything, please ask around or come and find Dyan. We will try to help in anyway that we can.

*Volunteers are always needed!!!! Call Dyan at 403-479-7223.

Driving Directions

Highway 4 south out of Lethbridge towards the Coutts border crossing.

At Milk River, take the north entrance into Milk River, turn south on the service road and then turn east on Highway 501. (signed for Writing-on-Stone Park)

42 km East on Highway 501 to Highway 500 (signed for Writing-on Stone and Aden). South on 500. Watch for signs into the Writing-on-Stone rodeo grounds. If you hit the Park entrance, you have gone one driveway too far.

Go south on the rodeo grounds road, follow the curve back towards the west and then keep on coming. You will see the trailers parked in the valley, come on down. Dyan is set up right by the entrance. If you haven't been out before, please stop and we will tell you where you can camp.

We cannot wait to see you!!!

