



# SHELTOWEE TRAIL RIDE

## 2025 Ride Information



The Sheltowee Trail Ride is a week-long, organized ride that has been held for 46 consecutive years. The ride fee covers the week and includes a daily guided group ride, catered breakfasts and suppers (bring your own lunch), campsite, 1 horse stall/pen/highline, and nightly entertainment. Only **one equine allowed per rider unless approved in advance** by the Ride Manager, Dave Yann. An additional charge applies for the extra horse. Ponying of an equine requires ride manager approval, as well. For your safety, our ride crew includes a doctor, veterinarian, farrier, trail boss, several scouts and a ranch hand. To ensure the ride is manageable and safe for all, **there is a limit on the number of applications accepted, so get yours in early!** Early registration, for previous Sheltowee participants, opens Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Open registration begins Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

We ask everyone to arrive in camp not earlier than 3:00 pm on Friday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup>, and not later than noon on Sunday, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>. When you arrive, **stop** in front of the office and **wait** for Tony Raniero Jr. or one of the crew to come to you. They will assign stalls and campsites and help you locate both. Please be patient because there may be a line of trailers waiting to be parked. They will get to you as quickly as they can. If you must arrive before 3:00 pm on Friday, when the Sheltowee Crew is in place to manage parking, please understand and cooperate with the crew if they need to relocate you to meet other specific needs. If you plan to arrive at Elkins Creek before the ride start date (Sunday, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>), book your site and stall/pen by calling the camp directly at 740-643-2416.

Please see Patience Reagan or Shelley Antle at the pavilion to check in for the ride and pick up your ride packet. For efficiency, **ride check in will only be open 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm Saturday and 3:00 – 4:00 pm Sunday**. Please check in during that time. If your application was postmarked by the deadline, you will receive a ride t-shirt, a ride pin, and other items. We will do our best to provide these same items to those who sign up later, but t-shirt sizes will be limited.

The Swenson's, long-time Sheltowee riders from Missouri, will graciously host a potluck supper again this year for everyone on Saturday, Sep 27<sup>th</sup>. The Swenson's will prepare the meat; please come and bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you forget your dish, come anyway; there's always plenty of food! As you know, meat costs have risen dramatically over the last few years, so we will be taking donations to reimburse the Swenson's for the cost of the meat. We will set out a labeled box/jar to collect donations (cash or check) or you can see Shelley Antle.

The 2025 ride officially starts with the Welcome Meeting at 5:30 pm CDT on Sunday, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>, and ends after breakfast on Saturday, Oct 4, 2025. Catered meals start on Sunday evening following the Welcome Meeting. A hot breakfast and supper will be served daily. Beginning this year, lunch will no longer be provided as part of the ride. **Participants will need to bring their own sack lunch on the trail.**

Happy Hour is hosted by one of our riders each day around 4:30 pm. Some riders bring an hors d'oeuvres to share (optional). You don't have to drink alcohol to come—many don't; it's a social get together and a great way to meet and visit with everyone.

The ride leaves *promptly* each morning at the time designated, so **be on time**. All riders go out in one group and move at a QH pace. We do not have a separate group for gaited horses. Please cooperate and be considerate by staying **BEHIND** the Trail Boss and scouts while on the trail. The scouts are there for your safety. They are near the front of the line so the Trail Boss can give them directions such as placing them at trail intersections, so no one takes a wrong turn and gets lost. **Keep up with the rider in front of you** and do not allow large gaps to occur, but **do not crowd the horse in front of you** either. Use good trail etiquette. Horses that kick must have a red ribbon in their tail. If you don't have red ribbon, see one of the scouts who will provide you with some. Horses must be 4 years old (by foal date) to participate. No stallions are allowed. The terrain is rocky, so shoes or boots are recommended. There is a morning and afternoon potty break and lunch break

while on the trail. You do not have to ride every day. If you participate in a horse registry's mileage or distance program, it is your responsibility to fill out the forms and have them signed by the Trail Boss or Ride Manager. If you participate in the ApHC distance program, Shelley Antle will have extra forms for anyone that needs them.

Each night at 5:30 there will be a short meeting at the pavilion that will provide various information to riders including what to expect for the next day's ride. Following the meeting, supper will be served at 6:00 pm. After supper you will have time to tend to your horse before the evening festivities begin. We have great entertainment planned for you each night including a live auction on Wednesday night, music and a group campfire. As a reminder, once the ride starts, individual campfires are not allowed.

All auction items are donated by ride participants, so **don't forget to bring your auction items!!** We ask that all donations be in new or very good condition and be useful items that will sell easily. Most of the money raised will go back into the ride. However, since the Sheltopee Trail Ride is a non-profit organization, a portion of the auction proceeds will be donated to a charity that aligns with our mission statement. Last year we donated money to purchase and transport hay for horses in areas heavily impacted by Hurricane Helene.

We are working to find a contractor available on Wednesday to pump out trailer tanks. If this service is available, we expect the cost will be \$25 to \$35 per trailer and there will be a sign-up sheet in the pavilion/dining hall. If you want to have your tank pumped, put your name on the list and pre-pay by cash or check.

**Please note that the Sheltopee Trail Ride Board of Directors has approved some changes starting in 2025, as follows:**

1. **Registration:** Our ride continues to grow in popularity and is filling up much earlier. To show our appreciation and take care of our Sheltopee family, there will be a 30-day early registration period open to all previous Sheltopee participants. Applications will not be accepted from the public (new riders) until the early registration period ends. A spot on the ride will be reserved for applicants only after the completed application, medical form and payment are received.

2. **Children:** Previously children had to be at least 10 years old to attend the Sheltopee Trail Ride. To make the ride more family friendly, starting in 2025, children of any age may attend the ride. However, children must be at least 10 years old to ride as part of the Sheltopee Trail Ride group. No buddy seats/riding double allowed. **Applications and medical forms are required for every ride attendee regardless of age.** Children must be appropriately supervised. Anyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when mounted. Ride fee for children:

- a. Peewees, Ages 0-9: Free
- b. Youth, Ages 10-15: \$150 each
- c. Anyone 16 or over: Full ride fee (currently \$425)

3. **Meals:** The Sheltopee Trail Ride will no longer provide lunch for participants. Everyone will need to bring food and pack their own lunches for the trails. Hot, catered breakfasts and suppers will continue to be provided daily during the ride.

4. **Vendors/Private Sales:** There has been some uncertainty regarding the sale of merchandise at the ride. Starting in 2025 the following rules are established that will allow private sales without adversely impacting the auction:

- a. Merchandise may be sold starting Thursday of the ride (or the day following the auction, whichever is later)
- b. Merchandise cannot be advertised/displayed in any manner (including pictures or social media), no previews or sneak-peaks allowed, and no sales or reserves allowed before Thursday or the auction (see a. above)
- c. If sales are made prior to arriving at the Sheltopee Trail Ride and brought to the ride for delivery only, those deliveries can be made at any time.

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4. **Auction:** We will continue to have one night for the live auction and no silent auction. Some participants have suggested that instead of only rewarding those who bring auction items, we should also reward those who spend money at the auction, so we're going to try something new. This year **we will give away two free rides for 2026**--one for the person that donates the highest selling single item and one for the person that makes the highest bid for a single item sold. No other prizes will be awarded for the auction. **Note that the prizes are for a single item, not for cumulative totals for multiple items as we have done in the past.** So, bring your best items and a pocket full of cash and let's have some fun at the auction!!

Sunday: Awards Night – As a courtesy to those receiving awards, **we ask EVERYONE to attend the awards presentation and be on time.** This includes 1<sup>st</sup> year participants as they will also receive an award.

Monday: Group Picture Night– Everyone please wear your ride t-shirt for group pictures. The pictures will be taken right before supper.

Bunk Houses: There are 2 rooms, 2 cabins and 3 wagons for lodging. Contact Elkins Creek for rental information.

Bathroom: There are four individual bathrooms with flush toilets and showers in the campground.

Dogs must be well behaved or kept on a leash.

Stalls must be cleaned daily. A few wheelbarrows and muck rakes are provided by the campground, but it is recommended you bring your own if you have them.

Items available for purchase at the office: Ice - \$3.50/bag, Grass hay - \$5.00 to \$7.00/bale, and stall bedding - \$7.00/bag. All prices are subject to change due to inflation.

**Drive safely and we'll see you in September!**

*The Sheltoewe Crew*