

NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF NATRC WAIVERS AND COMPLETION

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 2009

ATTN: ALL RIDE MANAGERS

The following revised instructions are designed to assist Ride Managers in utilizing the requisite liability waivers and 50-state statutory warning requirements to comply with various states Equine Liability Act statutes. As a brief summary, As of 2009, every state except California, Maryland, Nevada and New York have enacted some form of Equine Liability Act. These acts are designed to limit the liability of equine professionals and associations by statutory “assumption of risk” provisions. To receive the benefit of these statutes, the equine event sponsor must typically post warning signs at the equine event, and include certain warning language required by statute in its written liability waivers.

In order to maximize NATRC’s legal protection at all sanctioned rides, we have included on the NATRC web page all forms needed for worker and rider registration and waivers. These forms are found at: <http://www.natrc.org/>, under “Ride Management Documents” sidebar.

As Ride Managers, you are responsible for seeing that the appropriate forms are used for each ride by all Workers and Riders. These is Easily accomplished by the following:

A. Order and post at each ride the Equine Liability Act warning sign from the state where that ride will occur. Signs can be ordered from That state’s Equine or Horse Council, with costs running from \$15 to \$25 per sign.

- i. Post the Warning Sign at the Ride Entry desk for all rides occurring in that state.
- ii. Additionally display the Warning Sign at all ride briefings.
- iii. We suggest that the signs be kept with the ride management materials for each region (ie along with the rider numbers, forms, etc).
- iv. Sign costs can be reimbursed from ride entry fees.
- v. The purchase and use of these signs is the responsibility of each region. The signs can be used repeatedly at each event in that state.

vi. The above requirement DOES NOT APPLY TO RIDES IN: CALIFORNIA, MARYLAND, NEVADA AND NEW YORK. As these states do not have any Equine Liability Act statute, there is no warning sign requirement for those states.

B. Ensure that all Workers/Volunteers Execute and Return a copy of the Worker Liability Waivers and Page 2 EALA attachment.

- i. A copy of the required Worker Liability Waiver form is found on the NATRC web page. As these forms are updated from time to time, PLEASE use only the form found on the NATRC web page at: www.natrc.org.
- ii. All workers should be instructed to complete and sign a two page liability release which includes: (a) the Workers Liability Release page, and (b) the Equine Liability Act warning for the state in which the ride will occur.
- iii. This can be accomplished by:
 - a. Go to the web page at: <http://www.natrc.org> and print off the Worker Liability Form, AND
 - b. Go to link directly beneath, which states: “Click to Select State” for the State Release Forms page. Print off the form which applies to the state where the ride is occurring.
EXAMPLE: For volunteers assisting at a ride in Kansas, those volunteers would print off, complete and sign the Worker Liability Release form on the NATRC web page, and also print off the Kansas Liability Act warning found under “KANSAS” on the “State Release Forms” page. A link to this page follows directly below the “Worker Liability Release Form” link on the NATRC web site. The same procedure applies for all states.
 - c. Rides in California, Maryland, Nevada and New York also require Workers to print and sign the separate waiver language for those respective states.
*Although those states do not have a statute, special language has been drafted which specifically warns about the inherent risks of equine activities.
 - d. Copies of all executed forms for each ride should be kept as a permanent record for that ride.
 - e. Workers/Volunteers who have not fully completed, signed and turned in BOTH PAGES should not be allowed to participate in the event.
- iv. If minors are volunteering, the form must additionally be signed by both parents of the minor. Children under the age of 16 should not be allowed to participate as workers / volunteers.

C. Ensure that all Riders Execute and Return a copy of the Rider Liability Waivers and Page 2 EALA attachment.

- i. A copy of the required Rider Liability Waiver form is found on the NATRC web page. As these forms are updated from time to time, PLEASE use only the form found on the NATRC web page at: <http://www.natrc.org>.
- ii. All Riders are required to complete and sign a two page liability release which includes: (a) the Riders Liability Release page, and (b) the Equine Liability Act warning for the state in which the ride will occur. This second page must also be signed by Riders.
- iii. This can be accomplished by:
 - a. Go to the web page at: <http://www.natrc.org> and print off the Rider Liability Form, AND
 - b. Go to link directly beneath, which states: “Click to Select State” for the State Release Forms page. Print off the form which applies to the state where the ride is occurring.
EXAMPLE: For riders participating at a ride in Kansas, those Riders would print off, complete and sign the Rider Liability Release form on the NATRC web page, and also

print off the Kansas Liability Act warning found under “KANSAS” on the “State Release Forms” page. A link to this page follows directly below the “Worker Liability Release Form” link on the NATRC web site. The same procedure applies for all states.

- c. Rides in California, Maryland, Nevada and New York also require Riders to print and sign the separate waiver language for those respective states.
*Although those states do not have a statute, special language has been drafted which specifically warns about the inherent risks of equine activities.
- d. Copies of all executed forms for each ride should be kept as a permanent record for that ride.
- e. Riders who have not fully completed, signed and turned in BOTH PAGES should not be allowed to participate in the event.
- f. If minors are riding, the form must additionally be signed by both parents of the minor. Children under the age of 10 are not eligible to participate as riders in the Junior division of NATRC.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NATRC office.