

NH Recreational Trail Etiquette

General User Guidelines

Why is trail etiquette needed?

New Hampshire is one of the best places in the country to recreate. With a variety of ways to recreate, New Hampshire promotes sharing the trail with other users so that everyone can equally enjoy their experience. Trail etiquette is a tool to help inform other users of the courteous way to interact on recreational trails. This is not a complete list, nor are these rules or laws. When in doubt, smile and use common sense.

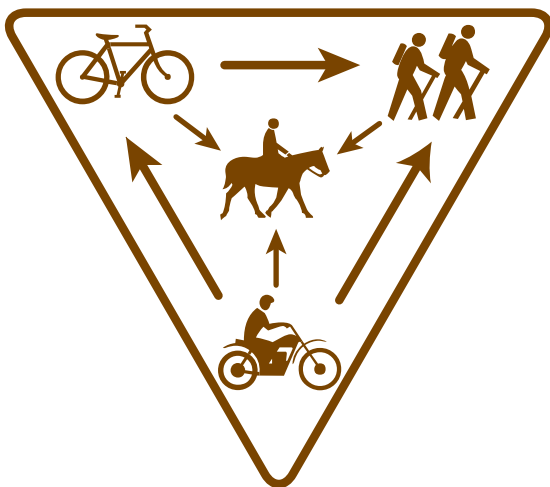
General guidelines for all users

- Be courteous of all other users regardless of their sport, speed or skill level.
- Keep pets under control.
- Enjoy and respect wildlife; do not disturb.
- Stay to the right and pass on the left when safe and appropriate.
- Train yourself and your animals.
- Be polite and a good steward of your recreational use; educate others.
- Travel at a safe and reasonable speed.
- Faster users yield the right of way to slower users.
- All users yield the right of way to horses and mushers.
- Users should be single file when in groups and approaching other users.
- Stay on trail, avoid trail widening when trail is wet/muddy and stay off trails during mud season.
- When parking, do not block gates, and park only in designated areas.

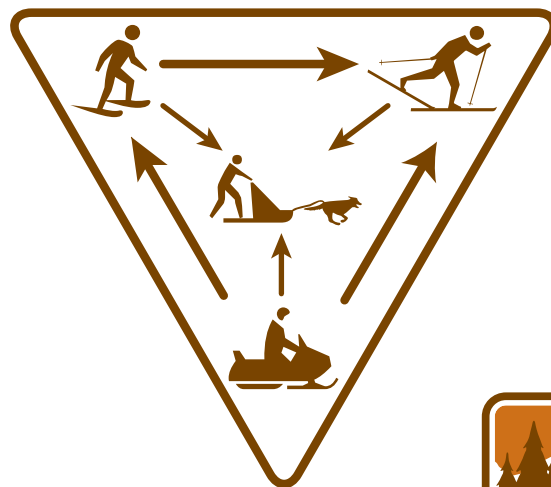
General guidelines for all users encountering equestrians and mushers

- When passing a horse or musher from behind, call out that you want to pass, and proceed slowly and safely.
- Speak in a calm tone to alert horse and rider/musher of your presence.
- Ask the rider and musher to advise you on passing and always proceed slowly around horses and dogs.
- Motorized vehicles should stop and wait for rider and musher to advise what to do next.

YIELD TO (SUMMER)



YIELD TO (WINTER)



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User Specific Guidelines (non-motorized)



Hikers

- Yield to horses and mushers.
- Do not take short cuts or cut switchbacks.
- Keep pets under control.
- Do not destroy or add additional trail markers.



Mountain Bikers

- Yield to hikers and equestrians mushers.
- Control your bike; be ready and able to stop at any time.
- Know your ability, equipment and trail.
- Do not slide around corners.
- Slow down and use caution when approaching another user.
- Avoid riding after heavy rains.



Snowshoers

- Snowshoe on designated trails and keep off groomed ski trails.
- Yield to skiers.



Equestrians

- Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on recreational trails.
- Know you and your horse's limitations.
- Let other trail users know when it is safe to pass your horse.
- Announce your intention to pass others. Come to a walk and pass on the left when safe and appropriate.
- Always pick up after your horse. Keep the trailhead and parking area clear of manure and trash.
- When meeting a musher, move off the trail to a safe spot and let them keep moving to pass. Call out to the musher if they need to stop.



Mushers

- Stay on designated trails.
- Make sure your dogs have the temperament and training for being on recreational trails.
- Always keep your dogs under control.
- Stay to right when going around corners.



Nordic Skiers

- When stopped, step to the side, out of tracks.
- Yield to skiers that overtake you from behind.
- If you fall, move off the track as quickly as possible.
- Know the trail difficulty symbols and ski within your abilities.
- Skate skiers should avoid classic tracks.
- Do not delay the progress of other trail users.
- Always pick up after your dog. Keep the trailhead and parking area clear of waste.

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