

**Advanced Rider-** (as per intermediate, plus the following). This rider is proficient in one or more of the equine disciplines: They currently own a horse or ride on a weekly basis. They are comfortable riding a green or inexperienced horse. They are very comfortable with a forward horse in open or wooded terrain. They know how to apply with understanding the independent use of hands and seat. They are competent riding a buck, bolt or shy.

**PREPARING TO RIDE:**

Come ready to ride with proper riding footwear, such as a pair of cowboy boots with a heel. Sneakers are not permitted for riding.

If you choose to wear a cowboy hat or baseball hat, always wear a stampede string or hat clip to avoid spooking the horse behind you should your hat fly off. Helmets are also available for all guests and are required for guests under 18 years of age.

All saddles have saddle bags attached to them. Riders are encouraged to bring raincoats and extra layers on trail rides. Please note that coats may not be worn around the waist when riding nor can cameras be worn around the neck or wrist but can be placed into the saddle bags or secured to the back of the saddle.

Scarves or loose clothing must be tightly secured.

The ranch provides guests with reusable water bottles which may be placed into your saddle bag.

WARNING: Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for any injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities, pursuant to SECTION 13-21-120, Colorado Revised Statues.

# The C Lazy U Ranch Riding Guide

Our riding program at the C Lazy U Ranch is designed for the safety and enjoyment of both horse and rider. Our goal is for each of our guests to have the best vacation of their life, and that starts with delivering a safe and enjoyable ride, geared upon your skill level.

**RIDER SKILL LEVELS:**

At the C Lazy U Ranch, we want to assure that not only are the guests having the time of their lives but that our horses are also enjoying themselves and staying happy, healthy and sound. Proper riding and respect for our horses allows for herd sustainability and happy, healthy horses. Please realistically self-assess your current riding skills, based on the following criteria. As we are charged with your safety and have a responsibility to protect the integrity of the training of our horses, we need to know where your skills are now.

**Beginner/Novice/Non-Rider** – This rider has ridden less than 10 times in the past 10 years or has never ridden before. This rider may have taken lessons as a child but has not ridden as an adult. This rider may have a fear of horses or had a previous negative experience with a horse. This rider is best suited for slow scenic or instructional rides.

**Advanced Beginner Rider** – An advanced beginner rider has ridden regularly within the past year or may have ridden at C Lazy U the previous summer. This rider should be capable of steering a horse with a direct rein. They should know how to post the trot or comfortably sit the trot. They generally have good balance and a secure seat on a horse. They are comfortable leading a horse, mounting, dismounting, and walking and trotting on level or rolling terrain. They have an interest in expanding their skills. This rider is best suited for refresher or instructional rides.

**Intermediate Rider-** This rider has ridden consistently and recently in one or more equine disciplines. They are confident working with a horse from the ground. This rider has a secure and balanced seat on a horse, they can post and sit the trot, and understand riding with or without contact on the bit. They know the difference between a direct rein and an indirect rein and have a coordinated use of the riding aids. They are capable of trotting for long periods and loping on flat and even terrain. They are comfortable riding for up to four to six hours in a day. This rider is best suited for our Intermediate Ride.





**TYPES OF RIDES :**

**Slow Scenic Ride:** A scenic ride for those who just want to admire the landscape or travel at a generally slower pace. These rides are generally shorter in length than other rides. On this ride you may make frequent stops for picture taking if desired.

**Intermediate Ride:** A ride for those who have experience and are comfortable trotting and loping. You generally enjoy slower and shorter lopes on this ride than you do on an advanced level ride.

**Advanced Ride:** A ride for the more experienced rider. You can expect to cover a lot of ground on this ride and engage in long trots and lopes when trail conditions permit.

**Instructional Trail Ride:** This is a progressive learning ride. This ride is designed for riders who are interested in advancing their riding and horsemanship skills and increasing their confidence with horses. This ride can be tailored for a range of abilities: from wanting to gain confidence steering at a walk, to riders interested in loping for the first time

**Refresher Trail Ride:** This ride is for riders that have trotted or loped in the past but want to be in a coached environment to advance their riding and horsemanship skills and continue to increase their confidence with horses. This ride offers a great opportunity for those who want to progress to an intermediate or advanced ride.

**Cattle Clinic:** If you ever wanted to feel like a real cowboy (or cowgirl) and work with cattle, C Lazy U Ranch gives you the chance to do just that! Ride out to the meadow with fellow guests and wranglers to collect and herd our cows. The cattle clinic is open to all levels of riders. Beginners can expect to learn more about the basics of riding. Our more experienced riders may be asked to showcase their skills by cutting a certain cow out of the herd. Cattle clinics are generally slower in nature, as they focus on teamwork and control of your horse. Riding speed is typically limited to a walk or trot. (Seasonal)

**Horsemanship and Trail Obstacle Clinic:** Our complimentary clinics are offered throughout your stay. They are great for riders of all abilities and are catered to all levels of rider. Each class is designed to improve your riding skills, general horsemanship and understanding of trail riding. These classes will teach you how to correctly move your horse’s front end, hind end, steer around or over obstacles, sit and post the trot, and lope. Our more advanced riders will be asked to pick up correct leads and balance over more advanced obstacles. You may even experience your first jump!

**All Day Ride:** Our all-day ride is geared toward our intermediate and advanced riders and requires that riders are comfortable and competent trotting and loping. The pacing of this ride is generally more in line with an “intermediate ride” in order to preserve the horses’ endurance for the day and for the remainder of your stay. You will cover a lot of ground on this ride and adventure through new and rough terrain. Expect to be in the saddle for up 7 hours. Each rider will pack a sack lunch beforehand and eat lunch out on the trail. (Seasonal)



**RULES OF THE TRAIL:**

Horseback riders are expected to obey and observe all safety rules and ranch policies. This includes not running, racing, or treating ranch horses in a way that could injure the horse, interfere with the riding program, jeopardize the horses’ training, or disturb the herd. Equestrian activities can be dangerous, and guests should use caution while riding. Please be alert and attentive to your horse at all times as horses can react unexpectedly to many given situations.

Always listen to and respect your wrangler.

Please do not smoke, take pictures, try to remove jackets or shirts, or drink from water bottles while you are mounted on your horse. If you need assistance, please ask your wrangler.

Ride with awareness. Know where problems might occur—such as a water crossing, passing by wildlife or unexpected debris on the trail.

When riding at a walk, always maintain at least one (1) horse distance between your horse and the horse in front of you. At a trot, maintain at least a two (2) horse distance. At a lope/canter, maintain at least a three (3) horse distance.

Ride and respect the speed of the greenest horse or the most inexperienced rider.

Never pass the wrangler or other horses. Stay in line when going faster than a walk. Ride the same speed as everyone else. Do not trot or gallop past someone riding at a slower pace.

When the wrangler stops to open a gate, ride through slowly until all riders are through and then stop and wait for the wrangler to assume his/her position in the front.

Walk up and down steep hills.

Warn riders behind you of low branches, stumps, holes, or other hazards.

Do not ever race or run your horse.

It is **NOT** permitted to hold your horse back so you can “go fast to catch up”. This presents a dangerous situation for guests and horses.

**STAY ON THE TRAIL.** Due to the East Troublesome Fire, we will be sticking to the trails for the foreseeable future to allow the land to heal and recover.

**CELL PHONES.** Cell phones use is prohibited during rides. They are a distraction to both horse and rider and may lead to an accident. Cell phones should be turned off and placed in a secure pocket or saddle bag. We prohibit playing music and taking pictures or video while riding. If you would like to take pictures, please let your wrangler know so we can stop the ride and assist you. During the break while dismounted, feel free to make calls, text, take pictures, play music, etc.

