



Wilderness Patrol Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) Volunteers Membership Requirements

The Wilderness Patrol - Mounted Assistance Unit Volunteer program is open to experienced equestrian riders who meet the following requirements:

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Horse and rider have passed two checkout rides. The first with the applicant's sponsor and a second MAU member, and the the second ride with the applicant's sponsor and a qualified MAU checkout rider.
- Have the ability to get the horse to and from the park they are patrolling
- Maintain uniform and dress standards
- Familiar with and abide by the rules and regulations of the State Park System

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Patrols are conducted in pairs. Patrols can consist of one MAU rider and one sponsored non-MAU rider (see below section *NON-MAU RIDERS*).*

*probationary rule

- Each member must ride a minimum of 6 patrols in a 12 month period to be considered an active member.
- If a scheduled patrol is cancelled due to rain or unsafe conditions, it will be counted as a day patrolled. Credit is given for no more than two "rainouts" annually. Volunteers may not patrol without a radio or cell phone.
- MAU volunteers must attend Wilderness Patrol training and park specific trainings in order to become an Active Volunteer.

ACTIVE MAU VOLUNTEER

A volunteer who has completed Wilderness Patrol general and park specific trainings, and who is in current standing with the basic patrol requirements of volunteer service and has passed two checkout rides. These rides can be in any park(s) where the rider has completed park-specific Wilderness Patrol training. An active member who is unable to volunteer for an extended period of time should notify the MAU Coordinator. The member will be placed on inactive status and will not be expected to schedule patrol rides.

Inactive: A Wilderness Patrol - MAU Volunteer who has not completed all of their required volunteer hours, for some legitimate reason, and has spoken to the MAU Coordinator and

received approval to be in Inactive status with the intention of becoming Active again when their current situation changes. If an Inactive Wilderness Patrol Mounted Assistance Volunteer has been Inactive for over one year, this volunteer must contact the Wilderness Patrol Coordinator and complete a final check out ride with a park-specific MAU Checkout rider. before becoming Active again.

Equipment: Each Wilderness Patrol Mounted Assistance Volunteer should wear a S.E.I. approved riding helmet.

Check-Out Ride: During the final Check-out ride, the applicant will be objectively scored by an Active MAU Checkout rider who along with the applicants sponsor will act as the evaluators. The applicant will be asked to patrol a particular trail and perform certain maneuvers. The Trainer will give a pass / retry mark and go over the evaluation with the Trainee after the ride.

A horse and rider successfully completing their check-out ride will qualify to ride as an Active Wilderness Patrol Mounted Assistance Volunteer, as long as they have completed all the required Wilderness Patrol Trainings. An applicant who does not successfully complete the check-out ride may continue to do ride alongs with MAU patrols while working on the areas that were determined to need improvement, and receive another evaluation within six weeks.

PARK-SPECIFIC RULES FOR ACTIVE MAU VOLUNTEERS

- Any MAU Volunteer can serve as the second MAU member to satisfy the two MAU member requirement for a patrol in any park. However, there must be at least one MAU member on the patrol who has completed Park-Specific Wilderness Patrol Training.
- A MAU volunteer who has not completed Park-Specific Wilderness Patrol training may not perform any checkout rides in that park.

NON-MAU RIDERS

The overall goal of the Wilderness Patrol is to enhance the experience and safety of all visitors to the parks. The MAU has a specific responsibility to ensure safe equestrian use of parks. The MAU also actively needs to recruit horse and rider teams to join its ranks. Therefore the MAU has the following policy regarding equestrians who can ride along on MAU patrols. Any horse/rider combination that is sponsored by an active MAU rider on a specific ride may join an active patrol consisting of at least one MAU volunteer including the sponsor. Only one sponsored non-MAU horse/rider can accompany a patrol. There is no limit to the number of patrols a sponsored non-MAU horse/rider can join. The non-MAU rider may be:

1. A recreational rider.
2. A rider who is potentially interested in joining MAU
3. A rider who wishes to demonstrate or acquire the ability to pass the MAU checkout process,

By sponsoring a non-MAU rider the MAU rider certifies that the horse/rider team are basically safe and know proper trail etiquette.

MAU COORDINATOR

The MAU coordinator will be an active MAU volunteer appointed by the Wilderness Patrol Coordinator. The MAU coordinator will:

- Report all relevant issues directly to the Wilderness Patrol Coordinator or State Parks

Peace Officer.

- Be responsible for maintaining the quality and standards of the MAU.
- Appoint park-specific MAU Checkout Coordinators.
- On occasion perform checkout rides.
- Provide two-way communication with the MAU and California State Parks (Wilderness Patrol Coordinator).

MAU CHECKOUT COORDINATOR

An active MAU volunteer who has been appointed by the current or a previous MAU Liaison and Wilderness Patrol Coordinator and who:

- Has been a member of the MAU for at least one year
- Is responsible for signing off on the second (final) checkout ride
- Will be able to perform checkout rides in specific parks as agreed upon by the MAU Liaison and the Wilderness Patrol Coordinator

Guidelines for Horses:

- Horse must appear sound. Horse must be calm, trail trained, and at least four years old. Experienced trail horses are mandatory.
- No stallions.
- Horses must receive regular hoof care.
- Saddle and bridles are required. English or Western tack are both permitted. Tack should be clean, and in good repair.
- Maintain a safe distance from all park visitors.

An Active Wilderness Patrol - MAU Volunteer wishing to ride a horse other than the one originally checked-out must complete a check-out with a designated check-out rider on the new horse before participating in Wilderness Patrol on that horse.