



# RIDE TO RENDEZVOUS

Welcome to Ride to Rendezvous!  
We are honored you have chosen to ride with us and experience the Methow Valley.

The ride brings together a variety of participants; those who bring their own horses, riders who rent horses, and others who join by driving horse-drawn wagons or riding in an outfitter wagon.

This is a loop-style trail ride, with a new campsite each evening. Riders typically cover 12–15 miles per day. Your gear will be transported ahead to each campsite, so you can focus on enjoying the journey without the hassle of logistics. We kindly ask that personal and camping gear be limited to approximately 35 pounds.

All meals are provided throughout the ride. Breakfast and dinner are freshly prepared and served at camp each day, while lunch supplies are available each morning for you to pack and carry along the trail.

On the final day, riders make a celebratory entrance into the town of Winthrop at high noon to kick off the 49er Days Celebration, concluding the journey at the Winthrop Rodeo Grounds.

We look forward to welcoming you for an unforgettable week in the Methow Valley!

# Before the Ride: Tips for Preparing for this Epic Adventure



One of the most asked questions every year is where will we be riding? Each year WOGA's outfitters and crew work hard to put together routes for both the wagons and riders that will be different from the year before. After over 20 years of putting this event together, there are few "new" routes to travel, but we like to shake things up to keep it interesting for repeat guests. That said, there are so many moving parts to coordinating the ride that we often do not know the final route until right before the ride as we factor in snow melt, weather conditions, permits for crossing assorted properties, and trail conditions. Please be patient and know that whichever route we choose is sure to be fantastic.

If this is your first time riding with us, you'll want to be prepared for a little bit of everything. We have had years that we rode in the snow, followed by years where it felt like it was 80 degrees out! Springtime weather in the Methow can change fast and be all over the place, so we recommend you bring your layers.

For those of you bringing teams or riding stock, they need to be in shape and shod. Both teamsters and riders can expect daily distances of 12-15 miles per day and you can expect there to be at least a few good climbs and the terrain can be rocky. We cannot guarantee there will be a farrier on hand to fix loose or missing shoes.

At the end of this packet are gear lists to help you pack for both you and your stock. It is important to adhere to the 35 pound maximum weight limit while ensuring you also have the gear you need to be comfortable.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to  
[Outfitters@WOGA.org](mailto:Outfitters@WOGA.org)

# Day 1: Your arrival



**If you have a wagon or stock:** you will drive to the first night's camp, off load your wagon and/or stock and other equipment, then drive to the Winthrop Rodeo Grounds where you will catch a shuttle back to the camp. There will be a limited number of shuttle runs, so you will want to be sure to allow enough time to drop your things, drive to the rodeo grounds and meet the shuttle.

**If you are a wagon rider or renting a horse:** you will drive directly to the Winthrop Rodeo Grounds in time to catch one of the shuttles heading to the first night's camp.

Information on the location for the first night's camp, an idea of how long it will take to get to the rodeo grounds from the camp, and shuttle times will be sent out about a week before the start of the ride.

Once you arrive at camp you will need to sign in at the welcome tent where you will collect your mug and Ride to Rendezvous shirt. You are also able to buy additional sweatshirts at the welcome tent. You will then set up your camp spot for the night and settle in.

We will hold an informational meeting at 5:00 pm followed by dinner and a campfire circle.

# Daily Schedule



- **6:00 am - Coffee/Tea**
- **7:00 am – Breakfast & lunches are ready for pickup**
- **8:00 am – Camp packed up & set at sites for the moving crew**
- **9:00 am – Be ready to ride out**
- **4:30 pm – Hors d'oeuvres**
- **5:00 pm – Dinner**
- **6:00 pm - Campfire and next day route information**

**Mornings:** Grab your mug and jump start your morning with hot coffee (or hot water for tea) at the coffee tent. We'll be working hard making lunches for you to grab to take with you on the trail before breakfast. As you wake up and get warm, you'll want to start packing up your camp and getting your stock ready to hit the trail at 9:00.

Each morning you will set your camp and personal gear in the designated location so we can pick it up and transport it to the next camp. You will want to label or mark your gear, so it is easy for you to recognize it each night in the gear pile where you will retrieve it before taking it to set up your camp spot for the night. Hay and group watering troughs will be provided for the horses.

You will want to plan on being gone for most of the day and will need to pack your lunch, water, clothing layers, and incidentals you will need for the day. Both the riders and wagons will stop mid-day for a lunch break with the total daily miles averaging around 12-13. Typically, the wagons and riders will not cross paths until the end of the day at the new campsite.

**Evenings:** As you come off the trail each afternoon, you will want to collect your gear and set up your camp. Hors d'oeuvres will be out in the evening if you need a little something to tide you over until dinner; the dinner bell rings at 5:00 pm.

Each evening, after dinner, a camp talk will take place, giving a bit of information on where the next day's rides will meet and leave in the morning and a bit about what to expect on the next day's travels. Typically, the horseback riders will leave ahead of the wagons each morning and meet in a different location than the wagons.

# Meals & Emergencies



**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner are set up buffet style. Plates and silverware are set up at one end of the line of kitchen tents and when mealtime is called, you'll make your way past each tent and fill your plate with our tasty camp cooking. If you have food restrictions/allergies, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can relay the information to our cooks so they can accommodate your needs. You will want to bring your ride mug with you to meals to fill with beverages or water. After eating, please wipe your plates clean and set them in the dishwashing area.

Thursday evening we open dinner up for friends and family via a dinner ticket to come join us for dinner and campfire entertainment. If you have friends or family who can't make the ride but will be in the area, feel free to invite them to come to dinner and share a bit of your adventure!

Lunches will be ready for you to pick up first thing in the morning. Choose from an assortment of sandwiches, fruits, snacks, and desserts to fit your appetite and don't forget to fill your water bottles!

**Emergency:** A certified EMT will be at the camp each evening and sometimes will also be on the trail, either with the wagons or the riders. That said, emergency services in the Methow are limited, and due to the remote location of some of the trails and camps, response times can be lengthy. If you are experiencing a health emergency, please don't wait to say something until things are dire.

A veterinarian will also be in camp during the evening in case of stock emergencies. Please be proactive and bring basic first aid supplies to doctor your stock (bute, banamine, etc.) and be sure to monitor their hydration.

# Friday & Weekend Events



**Friday:** we are on the move to get to Winthrop. Riding through town at high noon kicks off the start of Winthrop's 49er Days Celebrations and is a fun ending to the week. Following the ride through town and continue on to the Winthrop Rodeo Grounds where the ride concludes and your gear can be picked up. If you are staying through the weekend for the 49er Days events, you can keep your stock at the rodeo grounds and camp there.

**49er Day Events:** Not quite ready to be done yet? Stay for the weekend and join us for any of the events being held over the weekend! If you want to stay but don't want to continue camping you'll want to book your hotel early. Rooms are in high demand for this weekend!

- **Winthrop Parade:** 11am Saturday morning. Filled with horses, wagons, pack strings and local organizations!
  - Want to be in the parade? **[Sign up here!](#)**
- **Packer's Rendezvous:** All day Saturday and Sunday until noon. Join WOGA at the park in Winthrop for live music, vendors, and an outfitters dinner (by ticket) at 5:00 pm.
- **Mother's Day Breakfast:** 8am Sunday morning
- **Packing Competition:** 10am Sunday morning. Join in the fun and show off your packing skills! Gear, mules, and horse provided. Fun to watch too!