

Mule Packing School Topic List

Relationship Development with Your Equine Partner

Six steps to increase your communication and trust with your equine.
Understanding horse's physical abilities and weakness.
Different behavior and physical differences between horses, mules and donkeys.
What a horse remembers.
Training techniques.
Trailer loading.

Developing Observational Skills

Training to improve your ability to see critical aspects of back country issues.
Develop a health base line of equine.
Seeing fatigue problems and how to deal with them.
After work observations.
Animal tracks and weather.

Mule Packing Techniques

Hitches - Diamond, Box, Barrel, Basket, Blind George, plus tie-offs.
What hitch is appropriate for different loads.
Balancing loads and what to bring along.
Sawbuck, decker, buying pack equipment and customizing.

Leading a Pack String, Camping with Horses

How to handle pack stings over difficult terrain.
How to train your lead horse.
Preventing run-away pack strings.
Switch backs handling.
Camping with horses, high lining, and hobbling.
Equine feeding requirements, grazing. hay, hay pellets, and grain.
Rotation of animals for backcountry feeding.
Leave-no-trace.
Introduction to shoeing.
Introduction to roping.

Equine First Aid

How to determine specific health problems, colic, dehydration, inflammation.
Soreness, open wounds, infections, saddle sores and proud flesh.
Training to treat each health issue.
Practice giving shots, and wrapping wounds.
Learn to encourage your horse to drink.

Situational Awareness

Problem solving on the trail, reactions and actions to take in emergencies.

Your state-of-mind.

Awareness of fatigue, in yourself and your equine and how it impacts decision making.

How horses recharges in difficult events.

Endurance of equine in emergency events.

High water crossing, quick sand, 24 hours use.

Purchasing Equine

Specific qualities to see in your equine purchase.

Determining age and what to expect from equine at different age levels.

Confirmation, bone base, calcium deposits, ring bone, long vs. short back, color of hooves.

Military Training Topic List

Same as above with added emphasis below...

Packing awkward and crazy loads.

Night riding with and without night vision goggles.

Leading a pack string in extreme mountainous terrain.

Advance skills in horsemanship handling.

Increased observational skills.

Advanced first aid and applications of medical treatments.

Advanced Mule Packing School

Students who have completed basic mule packing school or equivalent.

Handling pack strings in extreme mountainous terrain.

Moving camp each day.

Handling equine in extreme weather conditions.

Leadership training.

Increase observational skills.

Next level first aid applications of medical treatments.