

NMDA Clinic Guidelines for Attendees

1. **Payment:** Once you sign up to ride you are responsible for payment. No exceptions (lameness, illness), you must pay the entire amount. You can try to find a replacement. Contact the host, sometimes there is a waiting list and they can assign your ride to someone else. However, it is not the host's responsibility to find your replacement so you might need to make some phone calls. If you can't find a replacement you must pay anyway.
2. **Ride times:** If you need specific times, contact the host early on. They will try to accommodate you as best they can. If you are from out of town and need to leave early on the last day, make this known.
3. **Stabling and Trailer-In Fees:** Let the host know how many stalls and for how long you will need them. Find out if you can bring your own shavings or if you need to buy them at the facility. Bring your own food for your horse and find out if you or someone else will feed them. If you are not using a stall plan to pay a Trailer-In Fee. Be prepared to pay up front.
4. **Attire:** Dress appropriately for the weather. Look tidy and workman-like, in close-fitting clothes so the clinician can see your position. In covered arenas or with shade, clinicians appreciate light colored breeches to be able to see your legs against the dark saddle. Wear a certified helmet (check your chin strap, it shouldn't be loose), gloves, and whip if necessary. Boots and spurs should be clean and polished. Wear a belt to attach a headset and bring your own ear pieces.
5. **Horse and Tack:** Your horse should be clean and well groomed; mane braided or trimmed, tail combed out, socks clean. Light colored splint boots and bandages make it easier for the clinician to see your horse's movement. Your tack should be cleaned and conditioned. Saddle pads and wraps clean as well. If it is fly season bring fly spray.
6. **Be on Time:** If you are late, that time will be deducted from your ride. Find out ahead of time if it is OK to be in the arena before your ride time. If so, quietly warm up your horse and be considerate of the rider and clinician currently in the arena.
7. **General:** Both you and your horse need to be fit enough to participate in the lesson. Know where to lunge and warm up. Find out if you need to bring lunch and water or if it is provided. Plan to stay and watch other rides.
8. **Auditors:** If you haven't prepaid, bring your payment to the clinic and plan to sign waivers. Arrive a little early. Bring lunch, water and a chair. Be courteous and keep chatting to a minimum.