

# Interested in Riding in parades with the LCMP?

## THINGS YOUR HORSE WILL BE ASKED TO DO IN A PARADE:

1. A lot of standing quietly.
2. A lot of walking slowly.
3. To walk beside another horse at the same pace.
4. To walk behind another horse, keeping a consistent distance away from them.
5. To stay calm in the midst of a lot of commotion and loud noises.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWCOMERS:

1. If you've never ridden in a parade, *come without your horse* the **first** time so you can see exactly what goes on before, during, and after the parade. We always need and appreciate the extra help.
2. (After you've done # 1) Bring your horse to the **second** parade. Tack him up with all the posse parade attire. Lead him in this parade. Evaluate his comfort level and your comfort level.
3. (After you've done #'s 1 & 2) Ride your horse in the **third** parade, but *have an experienced horse friend come with you and walk along beside you* in case you need to get down, or your horse needs to be led.
4. Finally, be realistic about your horses' suitability for the parade atmosphere because ***your safety and the safety of the spectator's comes first!***

## TIPS FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATE IN PARADES:

1. **Give your horse a chance to be successful...**show up early so you can take your time tacking up and create a relaxed atmosphere, rather than a rushed atmosphere for you and your horse.
2. **Be Patient...**Parades involve a lot of standing around and require patience for both horse and rider. We often wait in line for several minutes before the parade begins. Once the parade has begun, there is a lot of stopping and walking slowly.
3. **Enjoy yourself...**If you don't enjoy doing parades, you shouldn't do them! For most of us, it's just another opportunity to work with our horses. There are plenty of other extrinsic and intrinsic rewards as well...like the faces on the kids and adults as they see the horses go by; the responsibility of community involvement, and the sense of promoting horsemanship.

**We are a color guard unit, which means we present the American flag, Illinois flag and the LCMP flag. We try to stay in a formation of one horse out front followed by pairs of horses. Any horses or ponies being led generally stay to the rear of the group, followed by the pooper-scooper crew. Everyone riding a horse has to be in posse uniform. Pooper scoopers can wear posse T-shirts.**