

Los Viajeros Prospective Member Information

Los Viajeros (The Travelers) is a non-profit equestrian riding club for adults who live in the bay area and outlying environs. The primary function of LV is to sponsor organized rides for its members and guests during the spring, summer and fall of each year. The club strives to foster interest in trail riding and to promote the preservation and development of riding trails and facilities. The rides range from one day local rides to four day camping trips, which can take us to the far reaches of California. Access to a horse trailer and towing vehicle is essential for members and guests. LV membership is limited to 70 active equestrians. There are usually a few membership vacancies each year, as circumstances change. So come ride with us, and see the wonders of California, with new friends, from the back of your horse!

Guidelines for Candidates Riding for Membership

- You will need a sponsor to join The Los Viajeros Riding Club. If you don't already know someone in the club, we will be pleased to introduce you to one.
- Your sponsor will answer your questions, and give you someone to ride with initially and introduce you to other members.
- Sponsors are asked to ride with you before you ride with the club, to make sure you and your horse are going to be compatible with a group of unfamiliar horses on a trail ride. This is for your safety and the safety of other riders.
- For all membership qualifying rides, you must accompany your sponsor. On any given ride, a member can only be responsible for two (2) non-members. So, if your sponsor has guests or is sponsoring more than two people on any given ride, another LV member will act as a substitute sponsor.
- Consideration for your horse's pace and compatibility may determine the best ride group for you and your horse.
- Your sponsor should inform and discuss with you the Los Viajeros Riding Club Safety Rules and Trail Etiquette located on the Join Us page of the website.
- All qualifying rides must be official LV rides. Rides are selected by the Board and Ride Chair, and will be posted in the Ride Flyer and sent out for each ride.
- It is the responsibility of your sponsor to make ride and event reservation for you.

If the sponsor cannot make the reservation, they will assist you in finding a substitute sponsor for that ride or event. The member that makes the reservation is financially responsible for the ride cost if the candidate does not pay or does not show up after the reservation is made.

- During a ride, if you must return to the staging area prior to the completion of a ride, your sponsor must accompany you, or find another LV member who will accompany you back to camp. Do not leave your sponsor and ride alone.

Procedures for Becoming a Los Viajeros Riding Club Member

If you wish to be considered for membership in the Los Viajeros Riding Club, you must complete the LV Membership Application Form and LV Release of Liability Form and give them to your sponsor who will sign and give them to the LV Secretary. The Membership Committee will be observing your horsemanship and your horse on the qualifying rides. This committee is responsible for presenting a proposed list of qualifying new member candidates at the November meeting of the Board of Directors. It is important to get your application in and start the process as early in the year as possible.

Qualifying Ride Requirements:

The candidate must complete both of the following:

1. The candidate must ride start to finish on designated and qualifying Los Viajeros scheduled rides on a horse (or other equid), a minimum of five (5) ride days in the year of application; and
2. Of those five (5) ride days above, the candidate must ride and camp overnight at a minimum of two (2) separate ride events in the year of application, one of which may be the annual 4 Day Ride, if riding a minimum of two (2) rides at this event.

The Board is not required to fill all openings for membership. Rather, the Board's goal is to accept only qualified members. In the event that the Board has identified more qualified candidates than there are openings for active members, the following list of considerations will be used to determine who will qualify for membership that year.

- The level of horsemanship, both on and off mount – above and beyond the qualifying level.
- Compatibility of both horse and rider with the group.

- The level of participation in the club during the qualifying process or before, such as volunteering to help with an LV event.
- The total number of qualifying rides above and beyond the mandated number.
- The individual's participation and or involvement in activities that support the horse community and/or the advancement and maintenance of horse trails.
- Inactive members applying to reactivate will receive priority.

NOTE: When riding for membership, the more members who observe you, your horse, and your riding abilities, the more informed the Board will be of your qualifications and compatibility with the group.

Thank you for your interest in riding for membership in the Los Viajeros Riding Club!