

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BONELLI PARK MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT BY-LAWS**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and purpose of the Mounted Assistance Unit is to conduct equestrian patrols in and on designated county parks and trails to contribute to the enhancement of public safety.

In the event of an emergency, the Mounted Assistance Unit Members will mitigate the emergency within their level of training and expertise until police, fire or EMS units arrive. Additionally, the Mounted Assistance Unit will educate hikers, cyclists, equestrians, and other users of park safety regulations.

Furthermore, the unit will provide reports of unsafe park/trail conditions to the designated administrator contact.

DESCRIPTION

- Mounted Assistance Unit hereto called MAU is a non-profit organization under the auspices of County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. The MAU purpose is to patrol the trails and to ensure the safety of all users by reporting any hazards or dangerous situations found in the park or on the trail system. MAU members act as the eyes and ears for the park on the trail system.

- MAU members are not peace officers, and should not become physically involved in any problems observed on park property. They will make contact with the Park Office or police through their portable radios or cell phones for any immediate hazards or emergency situations. The goal of the MAU is to assist park visitors in their efforts to enjoy their leisure time during park visits. MAU members also participate in activities such as campouts, picnics, parades, and group trail rides.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Each member receives:

- County radios
- First-Aid kit
- Saddle Bags
- Ongoing horse and rider training
- CPR and First-Aid training
- Potential discounts at local tack stores
- Various horse related tax deductions, (check with your CPA)
- LA Co Parks and Recreation Identification Card.

Each member will be provided during patrol when available:

- County radios
- First-Aid kit
- Saddle Bags

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BONELLI PARK MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT BY-LAWS**

PROBATIONAL MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

- Must be 18 (eighteen) years of age or older.
- Must own or lease a sound horse in good condition.
- Must have access to transportation for themselves and their horse.
- Pass an orientation ride in front of the current MAU President or training Officer or designee to confirm basic riding and control skills for both rider and horse
- Three different gaits (example: walk, trot, lope) both directions of a circle
- Exit a circle in a straight line at an extended gait
- Come to a complete stop and have the horse stand quietly
- Back in a straight line for 5 (five) steps
- And any exercise determined necessary

FULL MEMBER REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

All MAU members must:

- Maintain membership in a County approved equestrian organization that has an official trail patrol component
- Make every effort to be available to work any special events in the park as assigned by the Park Superintendent park personnel, or President of MAU
- Shall follow the accepted attendance and park standards
- Be willing to attend a monthly meeting
- Be willing to ride patrol at least 8 hours a month or 96 hours per year (at least 48 hours of which must be within the individual unit park)
- Maintain minimum dress code during patrol and special events
- Complete a sixteen (16) hour County Horse and Rider Training and pass the certification test.
- This training will be provided at no cost when possible. Upon completion, the member will be considered certified on that specific horse.
- Complete and maintain basic first aid and CPR courses provided through Los Angeles County, American Red Cross, or other authorized provider.
- Attend four (4) hour refresher training session provided by MAU at least annually at no cost to the member
- Required to pay designated monthly dues
- Obtain and maintain all required uniforms and equipment

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

- Associate members are defined as those members who wish to be part of the MAU as non-voting, non-riding members, participating in MAU functions and activities.
- Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- Must complete the formal paperwork (including finger printing, background check, volunteer application, and obtaining County ID)
- Are required to attend at least one (1) meeting per quarter

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BONELLI PARK MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT BY-LAWS**

- Will be limited to one half of the riding membership
- Are required to have CPR and First-Aid
- Can become a full MAU member upon completion of all other requirements specified for full membership.
- Uniforms at all functions, except unit meeting, will be the required MAU uniform.

DISMISSAL

Any MAU member may be subject to dismissal when they:

- Fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings
- Fail to ride in three (3) consecutive months
- Display an obvious lack of enthusiasm or willingness to participate in-group activities.
- Continued unacceptable public behavior
- Violate County or Departmental Policy
- The decision to dismiss a member will be voted on by the MAU members or predetermined committee of Members in good standing, based on the above criteria.
- Special consideration will be given to any member with physical, family or personal problems that have obvious precedence over MAU activities, acts of god that would prevent a member from riding or attending meetings.
- County property must be returned (County patches and MAU ID badges) to the unit. In addition, the MAU may consider purchasing at fair market value, any MAU required equipment (pads, shirts, hats, tack, gear, etc.)

MAU DRESS CODE STANDARDS

- MAU uniforms consists of blue denim pants, and official MAU shirt
- Shirt patches will be provided by the County and distributed by the President. The patches must be sewn on 1" below the shoulder seam. County on the left, ETI on Right
- Uniforms must be replaced if they are in poor condition or at the discretion of the President
- White or tan straw western hat or helmet shall be worn.
- Boots (when riding) and belts must be worn and must be clean and polished.
- All uniforms will be clean and presentable for all rides.
- Park identification badges, whistle and knife are part of the required uniform
- Optional uniform items may be approved by the County; these may include light blue chambray MAU shirt, MAU T-shirt, MAU baseball cap, MAU sweatshirt, MAU jacket MAU vest, and or other items.

The Class B - Patrol uniform consists of a MAU polo shirt, white or tan straw cowboy hat or MAU baseball cap or riding helmet, whistle, knife, MAU saddle pad, rope halter and lead rope, and spurs (optional).

The Class A - Parade or Event uniform consists of light blue chambray long sleeve shirt with patches, blue denim pants, white cowboy hat or riding helmet, official MAU halter/bridle and lead rope combination, MAU saddle pad, whistle, and spurs (optional).

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BONELLI PARK MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT BY-LAWS**

EQUINE UNIFORM

1. All horses shall be well groomed prior to patrol
2. Saddles and bridles are mandatory for all patrol. (No bareback riding, or bareback pads of any kind)
3. All saddles and bridles shall be clean and serviceable
4. MAU halter and lead rope, pad and saddle should be used when riding patrol
5. MAU saddle bags containing First-Aid equipment should be carried on patrol
6. Parade uniform will consist of MAU halter/bridle and lead rope combination, MAU blue saddle pads and any other uniformed equipment approved by MAU

PATROL

1. Patrol rides must always be done in pairs. At least two of the riders must be certified to patrol in order to report trail hours.
2. All riders must sign in logbook or notify Park Office of intended patrol and what area will be patrolled
3. Radios or personal cell phones must be taken on patrol, check with Park Office as to availability of extra radios. Each patrol group must carry a radio or phone for every patrol ride.
4. MAU patrol reports should be completed at the termination of each patrol. If a hazard or emergency situation was observed, the report must be turned in to the park office immediately. Critical situations should be reported to the park office immediately by radio or cell phone. All other reports can be mailed, emailed to the park office as soon as possible following the patrol. A copy of the report is to be made and turned in at the next monthly meeting. Reports must be signed and some statement written about the patrol

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Election of officers shall be held once a year. Nominees shall be MAU members in good standing for at least one year. Nominations for candidates will take place in October. Voting will take place in November. Changing of officers shall take place in January. Elected offices are Chief/President, Asst. Chief/Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

Chief/President: Conducts monthly meetings in an orderly manner. Act as the liaison between the MAU and the local Park Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent. Insures that the MAU is fulfilling its obligations to the park. Appoints members to special assignments and duties.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BONELLI PARK MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT BY-LAWS**

Asst. Chief/
Vice President: Carries out assignments delegated to the position by the President. In the absence of the President, assumes the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Secretary: Responsible for the reporting of the minutes for each monthly meeting. Handles the correspondence for MAU as necessary. Keeps a record of attendance, patrol hours, CPR and First-Aid training & ETI membership.

Treasurer: Responsible for monthly and year-end financial statements. Is in charge of moneys received from special events, and maintains the MAU checkbook. Two signatures are required on the checks, that of the treasurer and the President or Vice President

STANDING RULES

- Individual units may establish unit-standing rules that are not in conflict with these approved by-laws if approved by the local Park Superintendent.

AMMENDMENTS

- Amendments of these by-laws may only be recommended to the County Department of Parks and Recreation with two-thirds (2/3) of the units' approval