



AZERC- Desert Gem I
Saturday December 13, 2025
AERC Sanctioned 50 & 25 Mile Rides (Limited to 12 Rigs)
Entry opens Monday November 10th, 2025.
This ride has special requirements. Please read all the information below carefully.

Ride Manager: Lancette Koerner, 480-650-3124 Email: Arizonaenduranceriders@gmail.com
Assistant Manager: Ellen Hickey
Head Vet-Mark Anderson, DVM

Thank you for your interest in attending the inaugural Desert Gem-I hosted by the Arizona Endurance Riders Club at the beautiful Utery Park, in Mesa, Arizona. This is the first Endurance ride to be held in Utery park and we are excited to add another great venue to our Arizona endurance rides. To ensure we are allowed back, it is imperative that our group leave a positive impression on all we meet in the park.

Base camp Location: Utery Mountain Regional Park at 3939 N Utery Pass Rd, Mesa Arizona 85207. The exact camping location will be sent in the electronic rider packet.

Weather: Average high/low temperature 66/42

Sunrise / Sunset 7:22 AM / 5:20 PM

Cell/Internet service: Should be good in base camp and throughout the park. The route in the Tonto National Forest will be spotty.

Rules and Regulations: The ride will be conducted in accordance with AERC rules. Go to www.aerc.org for the details. It is your responsibility to know the rules. **We do not allow ties.**

Limited # Rigs - We are currently limited to 12 rigs due to the size of the lot.

Ride Entry, Camping Fee & Payment - The entry fee for adults is \$140, junior & young riders are \$70. The camping fee is \$25 per rig, per night. We encourage everyone to stay Saturday to enjoy a relaxing night at the park. All entrants must be **registered by December 10, 2025**. There is no onsite entry. Entries will be accepted in the order they are received. See entry link below. The entry will close once the limit has been reached and we will start a waitlist. Please email your request to be added to the waitlist to Arizonaenduranceriders@gmail.com.

Cancellation Policy - Ride entry cancellations received on or before 5 pm, Monday, December 1st, 2025, will receive a refund less a \$25 administration fee. No refunds for cancellations after 5 pm, Monday, December 1st, 2025. Ride management must be notified of cancellation. Refunds will be processed after the ride.

Camping: Due to the limited space, tying your horse to the trailer or using high ties is best but **small** portable pens are allowed as space permits. Electric/wire fences are **NOT** permitted. There is a water spigot for filling your water but it might be more convenient to bring your own as you will need to haul to your site. There are 3 porta potties in the campground. If at all possible, please trailer pool so more riders can attend the ride.

Trail: The majority of the ride will take place on the well defined Usery Park Trail system. A portion of one of the routes for the 50 mile ride will be in the Tonto National Forest. The 50's will have 4-12 mile (approx) loops back to camp, the 25's will have two. The park is multi-use, you are likely to encounter hikers with dogs and kids as well as bike riders. It is **imperative** that you slow down to a reasonable speed for the situation as you pass by others and be courteous to all you meet. There is a wide variety of vegetation throughout the park, including cholla cactus. Be prepared to remove cactus should your horse pick one up along the way. A large wide tooth comb and tweezers work well. The footing varies from nice smooth granite trails to rocky and sandy. Some sort of hoof protection is **strongly** recommended. The maximum elevation gain is about 1100 feet.

Navigation: The routes for this ride will **NOT** be marked with ribbons. You will use the app "**Ride With GPS**" on your smart phone to navigate all the routes. **All riders are REQUIRED to use Ride With GPS and must record their ride and be prepared to share the recorded ride upon request.** If you are **NOT** comfortable using Ride With GPS to navigate the routes, this ride may not be suitable for you.

Water, Manure, Trash, Dogs: Please bag manure and haul it to a designated location, TBD. If your horse digs, fill the holes before you leave. The grounds must be left spotless, please do your part. Well behaved dogs are allowed. Please respect others by keeping them on a leash, out of other campsites and the vetting area.

Ride Packet: The ride packet will be sent electronically about a week ahead of the ride. The packet will include information about using Ride With GPS, the RWGPS **Event Link** and the PDF files for **you to print the maps and cue sheets for your routes**. For RWGPS to work properly without cell service, **all routes must be downloaded for offline use** and it is best to do this prior to leaving home to ensure connectivity. If printing the maps and cue sheets is a hardship, contact Lancette by 5 pm Wednesday December 10th. A packet will be prepared for you to pick up at check-in/Vet-in.

Check-in/Vet-In: Pick up your vet card and vet in on Friday from 1:00 to 5:30.

Ride Meeting: Ride meeting will be at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to attend for any reason please contact Lancette.

Vet Checks: All vet checks are in camp. Please be respectful of the vets. Their word is final in all matters pertaining to the safety and welfare of the horse.

Meals:

Potluck: Our traditional AZERC potluck will be Friday at 6:00. Bring something yummy to share and don't forget any necessary serving utensils. Ride management will provide paper goods & plastic wear.

Lunch: Lunch will be provided for all riders, additional lunches for crew can be ordered for \$10. per person. We can not accommodate any special dietary requirements.

Awards: A completion/participation award will be given to all who start the ride. First place & Best Condition for both distances, junior & youth awards and the bottom 10 award will be given.

P&R, Vet Check, Pulse & Trot, Finish & BC: AZERC has purchased top of the line handheld heart rate monitors that will be used for P&R. Once you have crossed the finish line during and at the end of the ride the horse must reach the pulse criteria within the allowed 30 minutes. After pulse criteria is met any mandatory hold times begin. You may take your horse to the vet anytime during your hold, however most riders choose to take the horse directly to the vet after reaching pulse criteria, then complete the mandatory hold. 50 mile riders will have a pulse and trot after about 36 miles. The same criteria as the P&R applies but there is no mandatory hold. The winner of the 50 mile ride is determined by who crosses the finish line first so long as the horse reaches pulse criteria within 30 minutes and passes the post ride veterinary inspection. The winner of the 25 mile ride is the first horse to reach pulse criteria after crossing the finish line and passing the post ride veterinary inspection. For either distance, if you finish in the top 10 and wish to show for Best Condition you will need to take your horse to the head vet 10 minutes after crossing the finish line for a CRI (Cardiac Recovery Index) you will then go to the scale to get weighed with all of the tack your horse carried. Your weight will be recorded by the vet secretary for use in calculating Best Condition. You will bring your horse back to the head vet 1 hour after crossing the finish line for the final vet examination.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Friday December 12th, 2025

10:00 AM	Base camp Opens
1:00 to 5:30	Rider Check-In/Vet In
6:00 pm	Potluck dinner
6:30 pm	Ride Meeting

Saturday December 13th, 2025

7:00 am	50 Mile Ride Start
8:00 am	25 Mile Ride Start
6:30 pm	Awards Presentation (See Ellen for your award if you leave before the presentation)

Sunday December 14th, 2025

12:00 PM	Base camp closes and must be left spotless! Thank you in advance for doing your part.
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To sign up for this ride click the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/253125479745162>