

Horse and Rider Supplies for Mobile Mardi Gras Mounted School

Horse Care—Highly Recommended

- Halter
- Lead rope(s)
- Hay net
- Water Bucket
- Feed Bucket
- Grooming kit, including brushes, hoof pick, etc.
- Feed scoop
- Feed
- Shavings
- Salt block
- Any supplements (bran, hoof care, vitamins, etc.)
- 10-12" length of chain with heavy duty snap (to secure portable stall)
- First Aid supplies for horses (cleansing agent, wound dressing, etc.)
- Hay

Horse Care-Optional

- Shampoo
- Sponge
- Small bucket
- Sweat scraper
- Show Sheen
- Hoof dressing or polish
- Fly spray
- Stable blanket or sheet
- Bute paste or tablets
- Liniment
- Leg bandages
- Cottons
- Clippers
- Manure fork—(some available)
- Wheel barrow—(some available)
- Chains / snaps to hang feed and water buckets from portable stall panels
- Any items you need or regularly use for your horse

Tack & Equipment—REQUIRED

- Bridle
- Saddle
- Girth or cinch
- Saddle blanket—for training
- Saddle blanket w/department logo—for street work, if applicable
- Lanyard or tie rope for horse while working
- Helmet with chin strap
- Boots with heel for training
- Duty uniform(s), long and/or short sleeve
- Duty riding boots
- Duty belt w/all accessories, if applicable
- Duty helmet
- Duty jacket
- Whistle

Tack & Equipment—Highly Recommended

- Breast collar
- Reflectors for horse's legs, breast collar, etc.
- Reflective vest for rider
- Raingear
- Canteen bag to carry raingear
- Clothing layers for under uniform—for cold weather
- Riding gloves
- Flashlight and holder
- Water bottle and holder (for rider)
- Body armor

Tack & Equipment—optional

- Saddle bags
- Riding crop
- Chaps
- Rubber boots, Mobile can be muddy
- Tack cleaning equipment—saddle soap, sponge
- Boot polishing equipment
- Laundry detergent for washing blankets, etc. if required
- Protective boots for your horse such as splint or bell boots

Tack & Equipment—optional (cont'd)

- Extra / spare tack (horses always break something)
- Towels for drying horse, tack, self
- Portable saddle stand
- Tools for emergency—hammer, pliers, etc.
- Any equipment you need or regularly use to ride or maintain your equipment

If you have a second bridle, you may use it during training to keep your duty bridle cleaner for working on the streets.

Weather

Mobile is situated on Mobile Bay and the weather changes rapidly at this time of year. Temperature ranges in February are anywhere from the high-30's to the upper-70's and can hit those ranges in a 24-hour period. Damp and/or cold weather is intensified by being on the bay. Bring appropriate clothing for riding in all-weather types—both during training and street situations.

Riding Attire

All training will be conducted on the grounds of the Mobile Mounted Police and /or the Mobile County Sheriff's Mounted Unit. Uniforms should not be worn during training. Firearms are prohibited during training. **Helmets with chin straps and appropriate riding footwear (boots with a heel) are always REQUIRED while mounted.**

Athletic-type shoes will not be allowed while riding.

If you are approved to ride on the streets during the parades, you must wear your approved duty uniform for your unit. Helmets are **MANDATORY**, regardless of whether your department dictates a campaign cover for dress uniforms.

On the final day of the school, you will be asked to dress in uniform for a mounted group photograph of all school participants.

Shoeing

Barefoot is fine training but shoes are highly recommended to work on the streets of Mobile. During Mardi Gras, the streets become littered and / or wet quickly, creating potential footing hazards for your horse. It is highly recommended that your horse be shod a week to

three weeks before coming to the school. This will help ensure a proper fitting, comfortable and tight set of shoes for your horse. We also highly recommend some type of shoeing to provide your horse traction on paved streets, such as borium caulks or studs, or a rubber-coated shoe. An alternative to a permanent shoe that will provide protection and traction are boots such as Cavallo or Easy Boots, which can be put on and removed for working on pavement. If you opt for boots, ensure that they properly fit your horse, and you are familiar with how to put them on / remove them beforehand. We have a farrier who can be called in if you have shoeing problems while attending the school. However, he will not be able to answer all emergency calls immediately and you may miss some of the training time until he is available. The best prevention is a good shoeing job before you come to Mobile. Plan ahead.

Fitness

You and your horse will work many hours together during the school. Both of you should be fit for that activity, so increase your riding times prior to the school. There are two long days of street riding at the end of the school where you will have 8-12 continuous hours in the saddle. Horses whose backs have become sore or who have become lame will not be allowed to work during the final days of Mardi Gras, when the parade and crowd activity is at its peak.

We also have a veterinarian on call if your horse needs medical attention. **ALL** horses are required to have a valid Coggins test certificate, dated within one year of the school start date, presented at the time of your arrival to the Mobile Mounted Police stables.

Stalls

Horses will be stabled on the grounds of the Mobile Mounted Police inside portable stalls (panels) under a large tent. Some shavings are provided. You may want to add shavings during the school. You may bring bagged shavings if you desire. You are responsible for feeding/watering your own horse and stall cleaning.