

The Victorian Roses Ladies Riding Society



"In order to inspire and share the history of the Victorian Era, specifically the romance of the 1880's, the Victorian Roses Ladies Riding Society shall portray living history in the costumes and appearance of each member. Members shall pride themselves in reflecting the trueness of the Era by being historically accurate. Our goal is to look forward to the Rose Parade, but more importantly, to be a strong sisterhood of Roses." – vision statement

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in joining the Victorian Roses Ladies Riding Society. We are so pleased to meet you and welcome you into our Rose family. This organization is all about fun, portraying living history of the 1880's Victorian Era, and riding in parades.

Enclosed is a packet of information that should answer some of the questions you may have during the beginning stages of your membership. You will affectionately be called a "Budding Rose" until all of your membership requirements have been met. You will be allowed and encouraged to join in functions that the Victorian Roses attend, but will not be able to participate in voting until you are officially invited to be a member. You will also be assigned a mentor, who will guide you through the steps of the application process. This person will be dedicated to answer any questions you may have along the way.

Please know that we are strong in our commitment to represent the Era as correct as possible. There will be a short quiz that all potential members must take to show dedication to learning about the Victorian period. It is not difficult at all, but hopefully will inspire you to become familiar with doing the research that is required to be a living history model. Your mentor can go over it with you as well as the bylaws that include certain deadlines that you may have to meet in the future.

We also have strict regulations that we must abide by, enforced by our insurance coverage. The regulations are to insure everyone's safety and maintain our insurance so we can continue to participate in parades and other activities. Please familiarize yourself with our bylaws (enclosed) so that you will be on board for your first parade or event.

A successful match for us and our ideal "Budding Rose," is someone who is:

- Dedicated to research and can portray the 1880's Victorian Era
- A Team Player
- Motivated
- Has some knowledge of horsemanship
- Positive
- Easy Going
- Committed
- Professional
- Does not abuse drugs or alcohol
- 18 or older (for insurance purposes)

Please don't hesitate to call anyone on the roster to answer any questions and use your mentor as a guide as you begin this exciting journey! Thank you again for your interest in the club. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

Joining any club can be a little confusing, especially one as detail-oriented as the VRLRS! Here is a helpful checklist for you to fulfill your request for membership.

1. Submit your application, release of liability form, and essay (in the form of a short paragraph describing yourself, your horse, your parade experience and anything else you want to add that may get us to know you better) to your mentor, who will be assigned to you.

2. Pay your dues to the Treasurer.

3. Join the NRA. (This is our insurance provider. It usually runs \$10-\$35 a year depending on the type of your membership. Join online at www.nra.org and write the number on your application

4. Fulfill your 6-month “budding” period and ride in at least 3 parades. You will not be expected to make a dress, as “budding roses” will have a simple costume provided that belongs to the Victorian Roses. You will also not be required to carry a parasol for the first 3 parades.

New members are not permitted to ride in a couple of our largest parades as their first parade for safety reasons. The parades excluded as a first parade are: Coronado’s 4th of July parade and the Mother Goose parade in El Cajon and any other chapter parades that individual chapters feel violate a safety concern.

5. Return your completed quiz to your mentor.

6. After the above requirements are met, you will be taken into consideration for an invitation to the Victorian Roses Ladies Riding Society. Your mentor will let you know an answer.