



Knots and Hitches used in Packing a horse for Backcountry travel

(3 full days)

History

- 1) Indigenous people of Canada and packing
 - How did packing methods differ between cultures
 - How the indigenous method of packing influenced modern packing

Advantages to using a pack -horse in the backcountry

- 1) Survival
 - An important method of transportation
 - Ability to move large loads over rough terrain
 - Bringing food and supplies to remote areas
- 2) Exploration and opening up new country
 - Exploring mountain passes in the back country
 - The role of the pack horse

Packing

- 1) Properly fitting the equipment on the Horse/Mule
 - How to fit the breast plate
 - Proper fit of the crupper
 - Saddle blanket and pad
 - How to tie a quick release knot on the saddle and why
- 2) Modern vs. traditional equipment
 - Decker saddle
 - Sawbuck saddle
 - Plastic pack boxes
 - Wooden pack boxes



Securing the load

1) Weight distribution

- How much weight
- How to distribute the weight between the pack boxes
- What is a top load and what is the maximum weight

2) Choosing the pack animal

- Size of the horse
- Preparing the horse to carry a pack
- Breed of horse best suited to pack

3) Barrel hitch

- What is the barrel hitch used for
- How to tie a barrel hitch to a pack horse
- How to tie a barrel hitch to a saddle horse

4) Mantying

- When and why do we make bundles (mantying)
- How to make bundles
- How to put together odd shaped objects into a neat package

5) Basket hitch

- When do we use a basket hitch
- How to secure a load using a basket hitch
- Securing bundled objects to a pack horse
- Securing bundled objects to a saddle horse
- Securing pack boxes

6) Single diamond

- What is a single diamond hitch
- When do we use it
- How do we secure the load using a single diamond hitch

7) Double diamond

- What is a double diamond hitch
- When do we use it
- How to secure a load using a double diamond hitch

Back Country basics

1. What to pack



- Food
 - Supplies
 - Back country gear
2. Basic equine first aid in the back country
 - Wound care
 - Saddle sores
 - Lameness
 - Puncture wounds
 3. What to do if you have a wreck
 - Basic equipment repair
 - Pro active measures
 4. Hoof care
 - How to pull a shoe
 - What to do if a shoe falls off
 5. High lines
 6. Hobbles
 7. Where to camp