

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**MAIL TO:** Backcountry Horsemen of California

[membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)

Toll free: (866) 748-2033

**BCHC Membership**

**1280 State Rt 208, Yerington, NV 89477**

**Primary Unit Affiliation:**

*(CIRCLE ONE of the 23 Local Units)*

Antelope Valley

Eastern Sierra

High Country

High Sierra

Kern River

Valley

Kern Sierra

Lake-Mendo

Los Padres

Mid Valley

Mother Lode

North Bay

Ohlone Riders

Redshank

Riders

Redwood

San Diego

San Geronio

Pass

San Joaquin

Sierra

Santa Ana River

Sequoia

Shasta Trinity

Sierra

Freepackers

Sutter Buttes

### Membership Class:

Individual	\$50.00
Family	\$60.00
Benefactor	\$100.00
Patron	\$250.00
Mt. Whitney	\$500.00

*(circle one)*

Associate Member of  
Unit(s):

\$15.00/unit

**IF RENEWING DCTR#** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Primary Membership Name)*

*NO BUSINESS NAMES*

*PRINT CLEARLY*

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

## PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF BCHC

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new units of the organization.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in BCHC is open to any individual or family sharing the concerns of the organization. Anyone joining is encouraged to affiliate with one of the 23 local units. Each unit conducts activities of its choice but operates under broad guidelines established by the State Board. Each unit is represented on the State Board by one or more Directors.

Individuals or families who wish to belong in more than one local unit may hold a Primary membership and also become an Associate Member of additional unit(s). There is a fee for each additional unit chosen for affiliation.

Members in a region not presently represented by a local unit are encouraged to form a new unit. If you are interested, please contact BCHC for a New Unit Organization Packet.

The content of this written material has been officially approved for distribution by  
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Bakersfield, CA 93384-0007  
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# Backcountry Horsemen of California



Concerned Men and  
Women Dedicated to  
Gentle Use of California  
Trails and Back Country

## **BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA**

Backcountry Horsemen of California is a group of dedicated men and women actively participating as caretakers of the wilderness. They are involved in preserving stock users' historic use of wilderness trails, they perform public service activities for the managing federal agencies and they are continually working to educate their members on how to be "Gentle Users" by practicing Leave No Trace methods and by treating other users with courtesy and consideration.

California and the western states have a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock in the backcountry. Backcountry Horsemen carry on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for these wild lands and to ensure their use for future generations.

### **HISTORY**

A group of private and commercial packers met in 1981 to form the High Sierra Stock Users Association (HSSUA) with the purpose of representing horsemen in dealings with the administrators of public lands.

Five years later, HSSUA joined with Montana, Idaho and Washington to form Back Country Horsemen of America. Currently organized in 26 states, BCHA coordinates activities of member states and oversees national involvement in public lands issues.

HSSUA adopted the name Backcountry Horsemen of California in order to conform to the national name and to better reflect its growing statewide membership. Membership in BCHC now approaches 4,000.

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

BCHC encourages all members to participate in volunteer projects that contribute to the betterment of the resource and the facilities available to all recreational users. Such projects should be above and beyond the work normally covered by the operations budget of the agency involved.

## **EDUCATION**

The future of public lands depends on how users conduct themselves. With ever-increasing demand on resources, it is imperative that stock user on public and private lands become "Gentle users". As the name implies, we strive to be as gentle as possible in the way we use back country streams, trails, campsites, and meadows; in our contacts with other users and wildlife, and in livestock management.

It is important that stock users make a conscious effort to minimize evidence of their presence in the back country. BCHC assists in this effort through The Education Committee, lead by the Vice President of Education. This committee is responsible for gathering, organizing and producing educational materials and programs for units and the general public.

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

The Public Lands Committee (PLC), lead by the Vice President of Public Lands, works to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use and provides units and the general membership current information regarding new legislation or agency management plans related to government regulation of public lands. In addition, the PLC works to support or oppose new proposals, plans or restrictions as related to the interests of horsemen and those interested in packing, riding and enjoying our public lands. The PLC promotes mutually beneficial working relationships with public lands agencies through collaborative efforts, while at the same time keeping the work and literature of BCHC before public lands administrators.

# Unit Info Here