

Saddle Up for St. Jude Judged Trail Ride

Description

Riders

Area riders will be judged on their ability to negotiate 20 obstacles set up at the Washington County Agricultural Center to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Riders are encouraged to include the community in their search for sponsorships (See sponsorship Form). A minimum donation of at least \$35 is required from each rider at registration; however, riders are encouraged to obtain as many sponsors they can obtain.

Obstacle Sponsors

Businesses and individuals may sponsor an obstacle in exchange for a tax exempt donation to St. Jude's. Sponsors may use the obstacle for advertising purposes to promote their business. If you or your business would like to sponsor an obstacle, please contact LeAnn Johnson at drlajohn@aol.com

Silent Auction

A silent auction will take place throughout the day. The winners of the auction will be announced at the 2:30 awards ceremony. Any individuals or businesses in the community who would like to donate items for the silent auction should contact Donna Schmidt at schmidtb2@verizon.net.

Concessions

A concessions stand will be available in the pavilion closest to the horse ring with a variety of food and drink selections throughout the day.

Rules and Regulations

1. Washington County Horse Council, its officers and members are not responsible for any damage, injury or loss of property as a result of any activities conducted in relationship to this activity.
2. Proof of current (Within the past 12 months) negative Coggins and a self-certification of Equine Health Form are required at registration on all horses.
3. No alcoholic drinks allowed on the grounds.
4. A rider/horse team may not cross enter between leadline, challenged rider, novice rider, youth rider and open divisions (See rule #5). However, the same horse may be ridden by a different rider or the same rider may enter a second time on a different horse within the limitations imposed by rule #5. A minimum donation to St. Jude's of \$35 is required for each rider/horse team. All checks should be made payable to St. Jude's Research Hospital for Children.
5. Divisions are defined as follows:

Stick Horse Division may be entered by any person wishing to participate regardless of other divisions entered. You may BYO stick horse or borrow a WCHC stick horse available on a first come first serve basis. This division will be judged on the “performance” of the rider so be sure to really ham it up. There are no restrictions to this division. Riders from any other division may enter.

In-Hand Division may be entered by any individual who wishes to take a horse through the obstacles without mounting and riding. Young horses, mini’s and ponies with outgrown riders are especially encouraged to participate in this division, however, there are no restrictions to this division. Riders from any other division may enter as long as they are comfortable handling their horse from the ground. As in mounted divisions, performance will be judged on the horse’s trust and responsiveness to the handler in negotiating each obstacle correctly.

Leadline is restricted to beginning or young riders who do not have the skill to negotiate obstacles without help. The person leading must be at least 12 years old and have experience in handling horses on the ground. The handler is only allowed to move the horse. Handlers may not assist the rider in reaching or accomplishing any obstacle-related-task not connected to the horse’s position or movement (ie. The rider must pick up the raincoat and flap it around independently once the handler has positioned the horse appropriately). Riders will not be allowed to compete in challenged rider, novice, youth or open divisions.

Challenged Rider is restricted to riders with a disability. The rider’s trainer, parent, or guardian will indicate the level of support the rider will need upon registration. This level of support will be designated on the rider’s score card and accordingly allowed by the judges at each obstacle. Riders will not be allowed to compete in leadline, novice, youth or open divisions.

Novice Rider is restricted to beginning riders of any age. Help from the ground in negotiating obstacles is not permitted. Riders will not be allowed to compete in leadline, challenged rider, youth rider or open divisions.

Green Horse is restricted to horses with less than 2 years of experience. A Green Horse may also be entered in a skill division commensurate with its rider’s skill level. Help from the ground in negotiating obstacles is not permitted.

Youth Rider is for experienced riders under 16 years of age. Help from the ground is not permitted. Youth Riders will not be allowed to compete in leadline, challenged rider, novice or open divisions.

Open is for experienced riders 16 years old or over. Help from the ground is not permitted. Open riders will not be allowed to compete in leadline, challenged rider, novice or youth divisions.

6. All children under 12 years of age must have a parent or guardian on site at all times. Close supervision of young children is required for safety. Parents please keep track of your kids! There will be a lot of horses and activity going on. We do not want anyone to be hurt.
7. All riders under 18 years of age, must have a permission/waiver signed by a parent or guardian in order to participate. All riders 18 years old or older must sign a permission/waiver in order to participate.
8. No practice of trail obstacles will be permitted the day of the event. However, riders may visit each obstacle without their horse and ask any questions of the judge regarding expectations prior to beginning the ride. Once the rider begins, discussion with the judge about the obstacle will result in a lower score.
9. All individuals are required to wear ASTM/SEI riding helmet and hard soled shoes with a heel at all times when mounted.
10. Upon registration, each rider will be provided with a score card listing the obstacles on the trail and a map of where each obstacle is to be found. In order to avoid excessive waiting in line to negotiate an obstacle, the rider may negotiate each obstacle in any order desired. Upon reaching the obstacle, the rider will give the obstacle judge their score card, negotiate the obstacle and then retrieve their score card from the judge before proceeding to the next obstacle. The judge's score is final and no discussion of the judging or score is allowed during the ride. Once the rider has completed all of the obstacles, the completed score card must be returned to the announcer's stand before either the rider or horse will be allowed to compete again in another appropriate division.
11. Spectators are encouraged at all obstacles. However, no coaching during the negotiation of the obstacle is permitted. Coaching from spectators will result in a score of 0 for the rider on that obstacle. To prevent horse/rider distraction, spectators must stay back from the obstacle.
12. Riders may choose to skip any obstacles they do not feel comfortable with, however skipping an obstacle will result in a score of 0 for that obstacle. Please use wisdom regarding your skill and your horse's trust and training level to make wise choices. Safety is of paramount importance.
13. All travel between obstacles must be done at a walk. Riders wishing to work their horse at a trot or a canter may do so inside the ring.
14. Obstacles may include but are not limited to: logs not to exceed 24 inches in height; dismounting and mounting; throwing objects from the horse; dragging heavy or noisy objects; opening and closing gates; moving over, through, between or around potentially scary objects or sounds; hills; carrying objects; side passing or backing; and bridges.
15. The judge will dismiss a rider after 3 unsuccessful attempts at an obstacle, after a reasonable amount of time (as determined by the judge), or if the obstacle results in unsafe behavior from

either horse or rider. Safety is paramount. Please thoroughly school your horse before the ride and use wisdom in deciding if an object should be skipped during the ride.

16. Scoring

5: EXCELLENT: The horse/pony/mule approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism. The horse's performance over the obstacle is visually impressive.

4: GOOD: The horse/pony/mule approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Excellent performer. Nevertheless, the horse's performance is visually pleasing.

3: AVERAGE: For the most part, the horse/pony/mule approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse, they are negated by errors in form. The horse's performance leaves a visually neutral impression.

2: POOR: The horse/pony/mule fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate the obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Control may have been compromised but safety was maintained.

1: EXTREMELY POOR: The horse/pony/mule approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the competitor's commands.

0: REFUSAL: The judge will instruct the rider to proceed to next obstacle after 3 refusals to negotiate the obstacle or after a reasonable amount of time as decided upon by the judge.

17. Registration will take place from 9:30 to 1:00. The trail course will be open for judging between 10:00-2:00. At 2:00 when the obstacles are closed down, any riders who have not completed the course, may turn in their score card and will receive a 0 for unjudged obstacles.

18. Ribbons will be awarded to sixth place in each division at an awards ceremony which will take place at 2:30 in the pavilion near the grandstand.

19. St. Jude offers a variety of prizes for collecting sponsorships. Additional donations to St. Jude from sponsorships may be turned into the Horse Council up until October 31 by mailing them to Donna Schmidt at 11310 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstonw, MD. You will be contacted by email regarding prize pick up.

20. Riders choosing to dress up, will indicate upon registration which costume division they are entering: Most original, Most colorful, Scariest, and Prettiest. This will be entered on the score

card. Judges will nominate their top three choices in each division and also nominate 1 rider as “Judges Choice.” Costume points will be turned into the announcers stand at 2:00 and points across all 20 judges will then be totaled. Riders can only receive a prize in one costume division. Costume prizes will be awarded at the awards ceremony to be held at 2:30.

21. Any unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct will result in disqualification from the ride.

22. Riders are expected to show respect for their horse by providing rest, food and water breaks for him or her; show respect for the grounds and others at all times; and not interfere with any other events that may be taking place on the grounds. Riders should exemplify the 4-H motto to help “Make the Best Better” by being patient, friendly, courteous, and helpful at all times following judge/staff directions.