



Equine Affaire's Versatile Horse & Rider Competition

November 15–16, 2008 • Eastern States Exposition in W. Springfield, MA

WHAT IS THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION?

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be a timed and judged race through an obstacle course created to test communication between horse and rider as well as each competitor's horsemanship skills. The competition will be suitable for riders of any discipline and horses of all breeds. As the horse and rider teams work through each obstacle they will be judged on several criteria as well as overall performance. The judge for this year's competition will be Scot Hansen, and the event's special guest commentator will be Julie Goodnight. Contestants will compete for thousands of dollars in cash as well as other prizes.

THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION AT EQUINE AFFAIRE

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the Equine.com Arena (coliseum) at the Eastern States Exposition. A maximum of 30 horse/rider teams will be selected to participate in the competition. The first round of qualifying runs will be conducted in the afternoon on Saturday, November 15th. The second round of qualifying runs will be in the afternoon on Sunday, November 16th. The top 10 horse and rider teams will advance to the Finals on Sunday afternoon.

THE COMPETITION COURSE

The course will be constructed within the 95' x 200' parameters of the Eastern States Exposition Coliseum and will feature numerous trail obstacles and riding challenges. The course will include obstacles and activities such as: jumping over obstacles, backing up through a pattern, pole bending or roll backs, various gymkhana games, working gates, riding over or through "spooky objects," loading the horse into a trailer, etc.

OBJECTIVES AND JUDGING

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be a timed event during which the performance of each horse and rider team will be judged on each obstacle for quality of horsemanship. For each obstacle, the judge will award performance points on a scale of 0-5 based on the horse's attitude, the rider's horsemanship, and the team's overall performance. Horses and riders will be required to complete each obstacle within a given time in order to receive points. If an obstacle is not completed within the given timeframe, the contestant will be flagged and must move on to the next obstacle. Times will be translated into points, and points from each obstacle will be totaled. The horse and rider team with the highest overall point score wins.

THE PRIZES

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants. The first place team will receive \$2,000 and the title of "2008 Equine Affaire Versatile Horse & Rider Champion"; the second place team will receive \$1,500; and the third place team will receive \$750. Additional prizes will be announced prior to the event and all prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the final phase of the competition on Sunday.

HOW TO APPLY

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be open to riders age 18 and over and horses of all breeds. All riders and horses will compete against each other; there will be no age or gender divisions. Interested riders may apply to compete by downloading an entry form at www.equineaffaire.com or by calling Equine Affaire at (740) 845-0085 to receive an application by mail.

To be considered to ride in the race, you must submit a video along with your completed application, signed Versatile Horse & Rider rules, and entry fee. The entry fee for each horse/rider team is \$350.00 (made payable to Equine Affaire, Inc.) The video should be approximately five minutes long and must show you and your

horse schooling, competing, or working; it will be used to evaluate your horsemanship skills and your horse's ability. Suggested elements to include on the video: jumping, working gates, walking over a tarp, gymkhana games, trail obstacles, etc. All videos must be in standard DVD or VHS format, and they will be returned, if requested. Applications, videos, and a signed copy of the Versatile Horse & Rider Rules must be received by Equine Affaire, Inc. by September 5, 2008. Applications and support materials will be accepted until this deadline; they will be reviewed by the management of Equine Affaire, Inc. which will select the final contestants for the race.

Individual riders may compete with more than one horse in the race, but they must submit a separate application, fee, and video for each horse they wish to enter in the race. Exhibitors already contracted to have their horse on exhibit in the Breed Pavilion or Horse & Farm Exhibits may discount the entry fees by \$50.00, but they will not receive complimentary admission or stabling.

Race participants will be selected by October 1, 2008, and contestants will be notified by phone. Applicants who are not selected will receive notification by phone or email. Entry fees will be returned to applicants who are not selected. ***The entry fees of accepted contestants will not be refundable.***

STABLING & ADMISSION TO EQUINE AFFAIRE

One horse stall will be provided for each horse entered in the competition. The stall will be available for use beginning at noon on Friday, November 14th, and must be vacated by midnight on Sunday, November 16th. If you cannot remove your horse(s) from the barn by Sunday night, you must contact the Barn Manager to make special arrangements. Participants are responsible for bringing or purchasing their own feed and bedding. Straw and shavings will be available for purchase on site. Each race participant will receive admission to Equine Affaire on Friday through Sunday as part of his or her entry fee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMPETING IN THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION AT EQUINE AFFAIRE:

1. Contestants must check in at the Barn Office in C-Barn at the Eastern States Exposition between noon and 6:30pm on Friday, November 14th. Upon checking in, contestants will receive a copy of the obstacle course for the qualifying round and participant order of go.
2. The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition at Equine Affaire will offer a unique and exciting opportunity to test your horsemanship and compete for valuable prizes. Please be aware that the competition will be conducted in a large arena where there are likely to be large crowds in attendance. While there will be an arena available for schooling and exercising horses, opportunities to warm up or practice in the Coliseum will not be available. If you and/or your horse cannot function well in such an environment, we cannot encourage you to compete.
3. All horses brought to the Eastern States Exposition must be free of illness and infectious disease. Any horse transported to the show from outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must be accompanied by:
 - a negative test result for equine infectious anemia (Coggins Test) dated within 12 months of November 16, 2008.
 - a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health papers) dated within 30 days of November 16, 2008. A veterinarian will be at the event, and horse owners will be required to present their horses' health papers upon check-in at the Barn Office.
4. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to monitor the progress of the race in the Coliseum and be at the entrance to the Coliseum by the time the contestant that is listed two riders higher on the Order of Go enters the ring. For their safety, all contestants are encouraged to wear approved riding helmets.

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION?

If you have any questions, please contact Equine Affaire's Marketing & Program Assistant, Nicole Taylor, at (740) 845-0085 ext. 123, or via email at ntaylor@equineaffaire.com.