



Equine Affaire's Versatile Horse & Rider Competition

April 12, 2024

Ohio Expo Center | Columbus, Ohio

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. Contestants will compete for \$5,500 in cash as well as other prizes.

THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION AT EQUINE AFFAIRE

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will take place on Friday, April 12, 2024, in the Coliseum at the Ohio Expo Center. A maximum of 25 horse/rider teams will be selected to participate in the competition.

THE COMPETITION COURSE

The course will be constructed within the 90' x 212' parameters of the Ohio Expo Center Coliseum. 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," 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 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 four contestants. The first place team will receive \$2,500 and the title of "2024 Equine Affaire Versatile Horse & Rider Champion"; the second place team will receive \$1,750; the third place team will receive \$1,000; and the fourth place team will receive \$250. Any additional prizes will be announced prior to the event, and all prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the competition on Friday.

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 equineaffaire.com or by calling Equine Affaire at (740) 845-0085 ext. 114 to receive an application by mail.

To be considered to ride in the competition, you must submit the following:

- 1) **Completed Versatile Horse & Rider Application** form
- 2) Signed **Versatile Horse & Rider Rules**
- 3) **Video:** The video should contain up to five minutes of video footage and must show you and your horse schooling, competing, or working at walk, trot, canter/lope; it will be used to evaluate your horsemanship skills and your horse's ability. Suggested elements to include on the video are: jumping, working gates, walking over a tarp, gymkhana games, trail obstacles, etc. All videos must be uploaded to Youtube.com or Vimeo.

- 4) **Entry Fee:** The entry fee for each horse/rider team is \$360.00 (made payable to Equine Affaire, Inc.) Checks or credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) are accepted for payment of application fees. If submitting check(s), please send one check for each horse with which you have applied. If paying via credit card, an electronic invoice will be emailed to the email address supplied on the application once selections have been made. Competitor will provide payment online upon receipt of invoice. A 2% convenience fee will be added for credit card charges. Checks and credit cards will be deposited/processed once the selected applicants have been notified of acceptance. Any checks for applicants not selected will be voided.

Individual riders may compete with more than one horse, but they must submit a separate application, fee, and video for each horse they wish to enter.

SELECTION: Participants will be selected by March 1, 2024, and contestants will be notified by email or phone. Applicants who are not selected will receive notification by email. Entry fees will be returned to applicants who are not selected. ***The entry fees of accepted contestants are nonrefundable.***

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 Wednesday, April 10, and must be vacated by 9:00am on Saturday, April 13. If you cannot remove your horse(s) from the barn by Saturday morning, you must contact the Barn Manager, to make special arrangements. All horses must be removed from the barns no later than midnight on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Participants are responsible for bringing or purchasing their own feed and bedding. Straw, shavings, hay, and feed will be available for purchase on site. One tack stall per competitor may be purchased for \$100 (Thursday through Saturday morning). Each contestant will receive three single-day admission tickets to Equine Affaire as part of his or her entry fee.

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

- Contestants may check in at the Barn Office in the Gilligan Complex at the Ohio Expo Center on Wednesday, April 10, beginning at noon. Upon checking in, contestants will receive a copy of the course for competition and the participant Order of Go. A Contestants Meeting will be conducted at 4:00pm on Thursday, April 11 in the Coliseum lobby (south side of Coliseum).
- The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition at Equine Affaire will offer a unique and exciting opportunity to test your horsemanship and compete for cash and other 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.
- All horses brought to the Ohio Expo Center must be free of illness and infectious disease.
 - **All horses transported to the event must be accompanied by: a negative test result for equine infectious anemia (Coggins Test) dated within twelve (12) months of April 14, 2024.**
 - **All horses transported to the event from outside the state of Ohio must present a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health papers) dated within 30 days of the date of arrival at the event.**
 - **All horses participating in the competition must be sound. Horses which are or appear to be unsound may be dismissed from the competition at the discretion of the management of Equine Affaire and/or the judge. There will be no refund of competition fees.**
- It will be the responsibility of each contestant to monitor the progress of the competition and be at the west entrance of 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.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION?

Please contact Coagi Long at (740) 845-0085 ext. 114 or via email at clong@equineaffaire.com.