

## **Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Trail Trials Information**

The Trail Trials (T.T.s) is designed to be a blast. It is an opportunity to test the rider-horse 'partnership'. Trail horses and riders experience a vast and diverse set of stimuli in the normal course of a day's trail ride. T.T.'s takes these stimuli, consisting of natural obstacles as well as fun ones, and allows riders to enjoy a day of fun competition. Together, the 'partnership' should exhibit fundamental skills and harmony. Riders go individually and are judged as they ('the partnership') negotiate an obstacle, with the emphasis on calmness, patience and safely moving through the obstacle. The judges may choose to time obstacles.

There are usually 14-16 obstacles. Some obstacles are designed to see if the horse-rider partnership trusts each other. For example; roping a steer head is designed not to see how good a roper the rider is, but how much patience the 'partners' give each other. Creek & river crossings, uphill, downhill, logs of various sizes, bridges, gates, drags, moving obstacles, backing through various 'things'. Horses should be aware and not spook, shy or spin, as well as should not be unaware and stumble and clip obstacles.

There are always two (2) classes: OPEN-ALL Breeds Class. All Breeds, Mules, grade horses and ponies.

The Registered QH Class needs to show proof of registration at sign in.

Youth Class. If requested and enough participation. Fee reduced for youth: \$20. Ages: 6 thru 18 years

Prizes to the top 5 Rider-Horse Team in each division class. \$100 1<sup>st</sup> prize in OPEN-ALL Breeds & AQHA Classes.

Registration is 9:00am-10am.

After the Trail Trials, a hearty dinner! Then enjoy a trail ride, if time. At dusk, the campfire is roaring and it's time to relax, tell tales and enjoy some music, &/or cowboy poet and good company.

Rider requirements: No bareback riding. Recommend boots and heeled footwear. Please, no tennis shoes.

KyQHA \$15 Membership offers more prizes. There are Year End Awards presented in December at the Kentucky Convention honoring Trail Riders, both those who ride in the Open and Registered Divisions. The high point Registered and Open rider are awarded a beautiful saddle.