



# CouncilLetter

January / February 2026



WWW.WISCONSINHORSECOUNCIL.ORG

INFO@WISCONSINHORSECOUNCIL.ORG

## Inside This Issue...

- 2 WHC Info/AHC Info
- 3 WSHCEF Info
- 4 WHC Annual Awards 2026
- 5 Hope Community Farm Thanks WHC
- 6 Midwest Horse Fair 2026
- 7 Midwest Horse Fair 2026
- 8 WWHSA Annual Awards
- 9 WWHSA Annual Awards
- 10 WWHSA Annual Awards
- 11 WHC Legacy Director Goes to Washington, D.C.
- 12 WHC Sponsorship Ad / Equest ePress Ad / WAHA Annual Meeting Ad
- 13 Notes of Thanks...
- 14 International Trails Symposium Notes
- 15 International Trails Symposium Notes
- 16 WHC Trail Grants 2026
- 17 WHC Trails - Capital Improvement Trail Grants
- 18 International Trails Symposium Notes
- 19 SKMHTA Update
- 20 WHC Ride Wisconsin Program Flyer
- 21 WHC Ride Wisconsin Program Application Form
- 22 WHC Calendar of Upcoming Events Submission Form
- 23 WHC Calendar of Upcoming Events / WHC Trails Committee Ad
- 24 WHC Level I Membership Application
- 25 WHC \$1 Million Excess Liability Insurance Brochure
- 26 WHC \$1 Million Excess Liability Insurance Brochure
- 27 WHC Districts / WHC CouncilLetter Deadline
- 28 Important Dates to Remember

*The Wisconsin State Horse Council  
Equine Foundation proudly  
presents...*



*"Winter Fun Day"*

*February 14, 2026*

*Free Admission*

**Hosted at:**

**Springbrook Events  
N8400 County Road I  
Burnett, WI 53922**



### Scenic Bobsled Rides

**11 am - 2 pm**

*\*tickets available for purchase at the event*

- \* Raffle
- \* Silent Auction
- \* Bonfire / S'mores

### Indoor Activities

- 8 am - Model Horse Show
- 10 am - Vendors Open
- Pie Contest
- Sleigh Bell Café—Breakfast / Lunch
- Live Music by Adam Stroschein

### Outdoor Activities

- 10 am - Dog Sled Demos start
- Sleigh Driving Exhibition
- 11:30 am - Vote for your favorite sleigh in the Sleigh Parade
- Skijoring Demos
- Chuck Wagon Cowboys
- Kid Friendly Activities
- Farmer Games sponsored by Compeer

**For more info Call 920-382-2711  
See Facebook / WSHC Equine Foundation**



**WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL, INC.**  
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HORSEMEN

## Wisconsin Horse Council

*Executive Board 2026*

### Executive Officers

**President - Anne Murphy**

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equuspo@gmail.com

**Vice President - Katie Bachhuber**

920-539-0601

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920-948-9502

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**Director at Large - Gail Seasor**

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715-557-0169, jpbird1862@gmail.com

**District 2 Rep - OPEN**

**District 3 Rep - Bonnie Shepherd,**

262-670-1426, bonshepherd@outlook.com

**District 4 Rep - Floyd Finney,**

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### Midwest Horse Fair

**Teri Giannetti** - Executive Director

teri@midwesthorsefair.com

131 S. Ludington Street

Columbus, WI 53925

Phone: 920-623-5515

## WHC Mission Statement

To represent, protect and foster a unified equine industry in Wisconsin through leadership, education, service and communication.

## WHC Vision Statement

To take a pro-active role in the future growth and development of the equine industry.

## **ATTENTION!**

**Tear out pages 25 & 26 to fold as a handy brochure to keep or to share!**  
**This month's featured brochure is**  
**WHC's "\$1 Million Equine Excess**  
**Personal Liability Insurance".**

*Membership in the Wisconsin Horse Council is open to individuals, associations, businesses, societies, or other entities whose interests are in line with the WHC's purpose and Mission Statement. Our membership year follows the calendar year. Members will receive a free e-newsletter and the option to purchase a printed newsletter where FREE classified ads can be placed and business card, 1/4, 1/2 and full page ads can be purchased as well. The newsletter reaches 500+ horse enthusiasts.*

*The WHC currently sends out six issues per year.*

*The WHC employs a professional lobbyist who works with us on pending legislation as needed for the equine industry. We continue to work on adding new benefits for our members. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or suggestions. Thank you!*



Every day the AHC works to ensure the equine voice is heard in Washington, DC

*Help us continue to Put More HORSEpower in Congress...*

**Support the AHC today!**

Visit [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) for more information

1616 H Street NW  
 7th Floor  
 Washington, DC 20006  
 202.296.4031



## Welcome to the Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation

The bond between an equestrian and their equine is an experience worth cherishing; we are dedicated to strengthening this bond and enriching the equestrian experience in Wisconsin through education, research, charity, and scholarship.



Visit our website [www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org) – Go to the WSHCEF tab at the top of the page

### What is the mission statement of the WSHC Equine Foundation?

The Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation was created to better serve Wisconsin's growing equestrian community and to help that community realize its fullest potential. The Foundation is a tax exempt, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, and as such allows individuals to make tax-deductible contributions to support Wisconsin equine projects.

The mission of the Equine Foundation is to support Wisconsin's expanding equestrian community by funding:

- \* Educational Initiatives
- \* Trail Development
- \* Equine Research
- \* Youth Scholarship and Participation

### What is our relationship with the Wisconsin Horse Council?

The Wisconsin Horse Council is our parent organization and the sole member of the WSHC Equine Foundation. WHC Board of Directors are elected to serve on the WSHC Equine Foundation Board of Directors, along with non-WHC individuals. The WHC was incorporated in 1972 as an advocate for the equine owners and industry in the State of Wisconsin. It has grown to become the focus of the equine industry in Wisconsin.

The Mission Statement of the Wisconsin Horse Council is: To represent, protect and foster a unified equine industry in Wisconsin through leadership, education, service and communication.

The WSHC Equine Foundation is a federally approved 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to the advancement of equine activities and the equine industry in general.

The Foundation's main objectives are to promote education, research and development, charity, and scholarship opportunities for equestrians in Wisconsin.

### WSHCEF Officers, Board Members & Volunteer Committee Members

#### Officers

**President:** Katie Bachhuber  
**Vice President:** Linda Ernsberger  
**Secretary:** Diane Sackett  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Young  
**Board Members:** Lori Helmer, Jan Pieper,  
Jennifer Julison,  
Gail Seasor- WHC Exec BOD Rep.

#### Volunteer Committee Members

Karen Meekma                      Dave Kluge  
Sharon Hookstead              Roxanne Cromheecke-Kluge  
Rich Ernsberger





## 2026 WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

*These Awards are sponsored by the Wisconsin Horse Council, Inc. in cooperation with the Midwest Horse Fair®. Nominations may be submitted by clubs, associations, or individuals.*

**Horseperson of The Year Award** is based on contributions to Wisconsin's equine industry as a whole, or in any specific area such as: youth activities, education, research, industry promotion, related legislation and regulation, trails, other equine events, or activities.

- ✦ Any person 18 years old or older can be nominated.
- ✦ Nominees must be a Wisconsin resident.
- ✦ Nominees need not be a member of the WHC.
- ✦ Include a paragraph explaining why your nominee should receive this award. Nominations received without an appropriate write up will not be accepted.

**Special Achievement Award** is based on a major accomplishment in the equine industry.

- ✦ Any person 18 years old or older can be nominated.
- ✦ Nominees must be a Wisconsin resident.
- ✦ Nominees need not be a member of the WHC.
- ✦ Include a paragraph explaining why your nominee should receive this award. Nominations received without an appropriate write up will not be accepted.

**Lifetime Achievement Award** is based on a lifetime of service to the equine industry.

- ✦ Preference given to any person who has devoted at least 25 years to the equine industry.
- ✦ Nominees must be a Wisconsin resident.
- ✦ Nominees need not be a member of the WHC.
- ✦ Include a paragraph explaining why your nominee should receive this award. Nominations received without an appropriate write up will not be accepted.

**Show Judge of the Year** is based on the integrity, diversity of knowledge, sportsmanship, willingness to accept and continually strive for greater knowledge of various breeds and disciplines at open shows.

**Equine of the Year** is to recognize the horses, ponies, donkeys, mules or any equine who have enriched the life of one or more humans or been cast into the spotlight because of outstanding acts, creating a positive image for equines and is awarded to the owner of the horse and is based on merit and voted on by the WHC Board of Directors which will decide the state Equine of the Year.

- ✦ Nominated equine must be a living resident of Wisconsin.
- ✦ Owner must be a resident of Wisconsin
- ✦ A completed WHC Equine of the Year Award Nomination Form, one (1) clear, color photo of the nominated equine (5x7 or 8x10), and an essay containing 250 words or less describing how the nominated equine has enriched the life of one or more people through outstanding training, contributions or accomplishments or been cast into the spotlight because of outstanding acts, creating a positive image for equines must be received on or before December 1, 2025.

**Awards will be presented to the winners at the Wisconsin Horse Council Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 19, 2026 during the Midwest Horse Fair®.**

Nomination forms can be accessed at [www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org) under "Programs" & then "Annual Awards" or by contacting the WHC Office at [info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](mailto:info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org).

**All Nominations are due by January 10, 2026 with the exception of Equine of the Year which is due by December 1, 2025.**



## **Hope Community Farm Thanks Wisconsin Horse Council for Sponsorship**



**Pictured above are (left to right): Phaedra Jinsky, Sarah Wills, Andrew Adams, Sarah Long, Mark Long, Kari Piotrowski and Dawn Garski.**

Hope Community Farm would like to thank the Wisconsin Horse Council with their generous sponsorship that will provide 60 hours of equine assisted services, free of charge, to veterans and first responders with our new program, Horse Powered Freedom.

We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit, founded in 2020 by Sarah Long, Heartland Healing With Horses owner/director and the Chairman of the board for Hope Community Farm. Its blended business model combines the facilities and resources of both Heartland Equestrian Center and Heartland Healing With Horses with the mission to “Build our community by providing a supportive environment on a working farm where learning, growth and a sense of purpose is cultivated through the positive impact of meaningful work, inclusion, connection,

hope and the healing power of horses.” Hope Community Farm offers equine-assisted services to individuals with physical and mental disabilities who either can’t afford services, don’t have insurance coverage and now, with the new program, also to veterans and first responders. All services are individualized, self-directed, self-paced and no previous horse experience is necessary to join the program.

On Sunday, November, 9th, 2025, Hope Community Farm held their first open house to raise funds for the new program, Horse Powered Freedom. In attendance were children of all ages, through veterans of foreign wars and all ages in between. We opened our barn doors to the community and offered the opportunity for people to meet, groom, lead and learn more about horses and the innumerable ways they can improve the quality of life in unforgettable impactful ways. We shared and demonstrated how for many people the barn can be a sanctuary, a place of belonging and authenticity. For many people this was their first encounter with a horse that involved the horse being able to interact freely with them in return and the general consensus was, overall, they had never realized horses were capable of having such unique, silly, calming and enjoyable personalities. For others it was their first time feeling the natural, no-words-needed, emotional processing that only a horse can provide. The event was a rousing success, again much thanks to the many helpful individuals such as Heartland Equestrian Center owner Marla Martin and General Manager, Mark Long, who is also Wisconsin Horse Council District 5 President. We received support from several local community businesses and individuals for raffle baskets, silent auction items and we also had a 50/50 raffle that helped raise enough funding for 40 additional hours of service for our new program! We are excited to announce we now officially have openings for our Horse Powered Freedom program so if you know a veteran or first responder who could benefit from our services or is interested in checking out our program please have them contact Sarah Long at 715-323-2626 or [sarah@heartlandheals.com](mailto:sarah@heartlandheals.com), visit us on Facebook or [www.hopecommunityfarm.org](http://www.hopecommunityfarm.org).



# Save the Date

## APRIL 17, 18, & 19, 2026

THE ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER | MADISON, WISCONSIN

## PRCA Rodeo & Entertainers Return Opening With The Greatest Show Horse!

**Two nights of PRCA Rodeo** & world class entertainers will be back at the Midwest Horse Fair: Friday, April 17, sponsored by Nutrena and Saturday, April 18, sponsored by Blain's Farm & Fleet.

Each night of family entertainment will be action packed and kicked off with **The Greatest Show Horse** - a magical evening performance inspired by the timeless wonder of The Greatest Showman, where horsepower meets showmanship in a breathtaking display of grace, strength, and show-stopping entertainment.

Tickets go on sale at Ticketmaster.com on January 2nd and sell out year after year, so be sure to snap up your tickets early!



## Threatened & Critical Breed Showcase



Midwest Horse Fair continues to grow our threatened and critical breed showcase to help educate on these horses that per The Livestock Conservancy have either an estimated global population of less than 500 to be classified as a critical breed or have an estimated global population of less than 5,000 to be considered a threatened breed.

The following threatened or critical breeds are planning to be exhibited at the Midwest Horse Fair 2026: Akhal-Teke, American Sugarbush, Drum Horse, Dales Pony, Nokota Horse, Ojibwe Ponies, Rocky Mountain, Trakehner Horse, Chincoteague Pony and more!

Visit Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram for the most up-to-date information.





# Save the Date

## APRIL 17, 18, & 19, 2026

THE ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER | MADISON, WISCONSIN

### Equine Career Exploration

#### Apply Your Passion for Horses to Your Career!

Back at Midwest Horse Fair in 2026 will be the Equine Career Exploration feature sponsored by Cinch Jeans with several events throughout the weekend where you can explore horse related career paths and college opportunities!

Equine career exploration discussions will be held throughout the weekend in the Nutrena Conference Rooms to learn about various equine related career. Sign up for a 20-minute one-on-one consultation with equine career expert, Karin Bump, PhD.

Contact Dr. Bump via email at: [dr.kbump@gmail.com](mailto:dr.kbump@gmail.com) to set up a one-on-one session on Friday and Saturday.

Participate in a 'careers in the industry' fun Scavenger Hunt.



### Buy Your Tickets Early & Save!



Pick up your general admission tickets at a participating Blain's Farm & Fleet, Heartland Equestrian Center, Horsey Habit, Marathon Feed, Area Tack Sales, Wyoming Saddles or before the fair and save!

One-day admission is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate and Three-day admission is \$45 in advance or \$55 at the gate.

Or earn your admission by volunteering for a 3-hour shift at the Midwest Horse Fair. Come and be a part of our team in 2026 and for every 3 hours of volunteering you'll earn a one-day admission pass.

Visit Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram for the most up-to-date information.



## **Western Wisconsin Horse Show Association Celebrates Another Successful Season at Annual Awards Banquet**

**LA CROSSE, WI** – The Western Wisconsin Horse Show Association (WWHSA) celebrated the achievements of riders across four disciplines at its annual awards banquet on November 1st, 2025 recognizing excellence in horsemanship and community involvement from the 2025 show season. The banquet had 196 people in attendance.

The evening brought together members, families, and supporters to honor competitors who accumulated points throughout the season in Dressage, Hunter, Gymkhana, and Pleasure disciplines. From May through September, WWHSA hosted approximately eight shows per discipline across Western Wisconsin, with speed events offering even more opportunities for riders to compete. Multiple clubs throughout the region partnered to make the robust show schedule possible.

"This banquet is the culmination of months of dedication by our riders, volunteers, and host clubs," said Haley Simms (V-P Hunter/Dressage). "It's wonderful to see our community come together to celebrate these accomplishments" Jessica Nyhus-Ahnen stated (V-P Pleasure).

### **Season-Long Competition and Register of Merit Awards**

Throughout the season, riders earned points in individual classes, with those points accumulating toward year-end awards in each discipline. Additionally, horse and rider combinations earned points over multiple years toward the prestigious Register of Merit recognition, acknowledging sustained excellence and partnership in their respective disciplines.

### **Commitment to Accessible, Welcoming Competition**

WWHSA, formed in 1994 is one of the "longest organized open horse show organizations in the mid-west" according to Pat Stevenson, (WHC carded judge and previous WHC Horseman of the year recipient and one of the founders of WWHSA). The organization prides itself on maintaining the open show philosophy, creating an environment where riders of all experience levels—from those just starting out to high-level competitors—feel welcome and supported. The organization believes in keeping horse shows local and affordable for families, ensuring that the sport remains accessible to all.

"We want our shows to be a place where someone can get their feet wet and learn the ropes without feeling overwhelmed," explained Gretchen Heilman (V-P Speed) "Whether you're bringing your first horse to their first show or you're a seasoned competitor, you'll find the same welcoming atmosphere and supportive community."

This commitment to fostering a positive learning environment has made WWHSA shows ideal for newcomers to gain confidence while still providing the competitive challenge that experienced riders seek. The organization's members take pride in creating an atmosphere where questions are encouraged, nerves are understood, and every achievement is celebrated.

## **An Evening of Recognition and Community**

The banquet featured a meal shared among members and their families, followed by the presentation of awards across all four disciplines. The evening also included a live auction, with proceeds supporting the organization's continued operations and charitable initiatives.

A highlight for many young riders was the Youth Bonus Bucks Auction, where participants could bid on donated items using "bonus bucks" earned throughout the year through volunteer work and show participation. This unique program encourages youth involvement in all aspects of the organization beyond just competition.

## **Commitment to Community and Education**

WWHSA is governed by a board of directors that includes vice presidents representing each of the four disciplines, along with traditional board roles, ensuring that all facets of the organization have a voice in its direction.

In recent years, the organization has been able to give back to the broader community through donations to several non-profit organizations. WWHSA has also demonstrated its commitment to supporting young equestrians' futures by offering generous scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have been active members of the association.

## **Looking Ahead**

As the 2025 season comes to a close, WWHSA looks forward to another exciting year of competition beginning in May 2026. The organization continues to welcome riders of all ages and skill levels across its four disciplines.

For more information about WWHSA, upcoming show schedules, or membership opportunities, please contact any board members that are listed on the website at: [www.wwhsa.org](http://www.wwhsa.org).

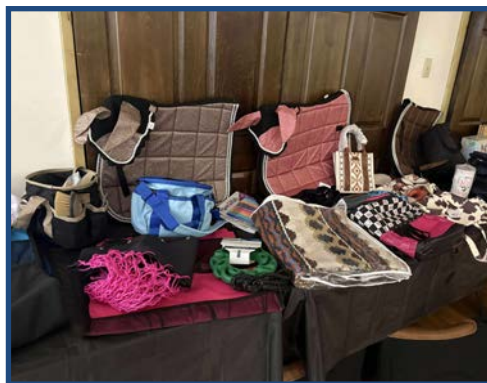
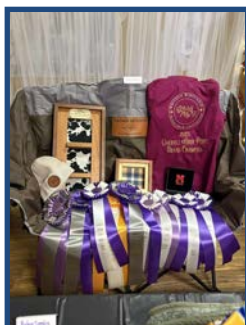
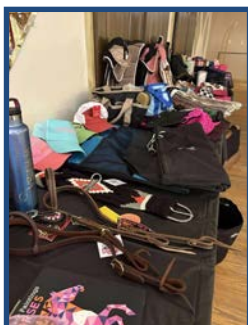
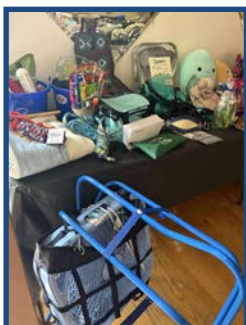
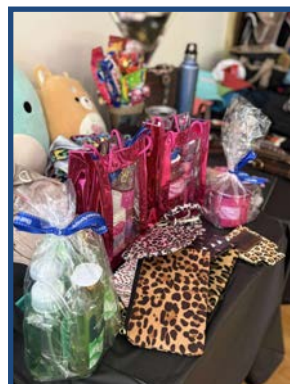
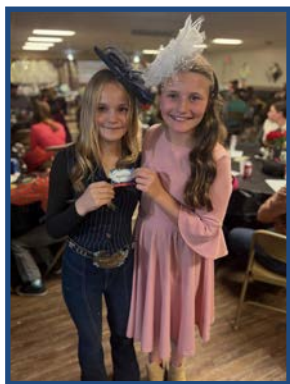
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*About WWHSA: The Western Wisconsin Horse Show Association is a multi-discipline equestrian organization offering competitive opportunities in Dressage, Hunter, Gymkhana, and Pleasure disciplines throughout Western Wisconsin. Dedicated to the open show philosophy, WWHSA creates welcoming, affordable, and educational environments for riders of all levels—from beginners taking their first steps into the show ring to experienced competitors. The organization is committed to promoting horsemanship, sportsmanship, and community involvement while keeping local horse shows accessible to families throughout the region.*



## Western Wisconsin Horse Show Association

### Annual Awards Banquet 2025 Photos





## WHC Legacy Director Goes to Washington

On November 8, 2025, Joe Parr, longtime WHC Legacy Director, had the honor of going to Washington, D.C. with the Badger Honor Flight. He left Madison bright and early on that Saturday morning sent off by many well-wishers and color guards. He arrived in Washington, D.C. to be greeted by many that came out for their arrival. The biggest greeter of all was



President Obama. He came aboard the plane and spoke to them and then greeted everyone as they exited the plane. It was the first time that a U.S. President, past or present, had ever greeted an honor flight. It



was a day filled with visits to many memorials. They were greeted with honor and love everywhere they went. Eighty-six veterans went on the flight, most of them Vietnam veterans. After a long exhausting day, they were greeted by

hundreds of family members, friends, color guards, Uncle Sam, and many organizations at the Madison airport. Joe says it was the trip of a lifetime and it was a great privilege to go on the trip.

The Wisconsin Horse Council would like to thank Joe and all veterans and their families for their service. Thank you!





## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications due by  
February 28, 2026

Get all of the details and application form at  
[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)

We look forward to helping  
you reach your goals!



### Equest ePress

*News about Wisconsin and border region's equine industry  
- its animals, people, events, businesses, and organizations*

Subscribe to receive this **free** e-newsletter in your email box  
by visiting the EquestETS blogsite and filling in the form under  
Newsletter or emailing using the email address below.

Blogsite: [www.equestets.com](http://www.equestets.com)  
Email: [equestets@gmail.com](mailto:equestets@gmail.com)

The Wisconsin Arabian Horse  
Association Annual Meeting will be  
held on Saturday, January 10th, in  
Madison at the Goodman Community  
Center, 214 Waubesa Street, Brass  
Works Building in the Bea Christensen  
Room from noon to 3pm. There will  
be a catered lunch, followed by  
awards, elections and news for the  
upcoming year. Anyone interested in  
the Arabian Horse is welcome. We are  
always looking for new members.  
Contact Nicole Fink for more info 608-  
290-5703. We hope to see you there!



## Notes of Thanks...

The Wisconsin Horse Council receives many notes of thanks from the recipients of our Sponsorship and Trail Grant Programs. Please visit our website to view complete lists of which organizations have received funds from the WHC over the years. We are here to help!

To the Wisconsin Horse Council

November 1, 2025

Re. \$1250 grant for the Wisconsin State 4-H Hunt & Dressage Clinic and Show, June 2025

My apologies for the delay in sending this to you.

We were very grateful to have the grant for our clinicians. It is our practice to have the judges provide clinics in dressage and jumping for the first two days of the weekend. This allows the youth to receive a quality lesson at a reasonable price and get to know the expectations of the judges when they are competing through the rest of the weekend.

This year we had 45 exhibitors. 35 of them participated in a dressage clinic. 38 of them participated in a jumping clinic. The cost of our clinicians for Friday and Saturday was \$2,230, not including meals and mileage. The \$1,250 was used to offset that cost.

Again, we cannot express enough how much it means to our little show to have the support of the Wisconsin Horse Council. Attached are a few pictures from the weekend.



Most kind regards,

Kristin and Juliann Tetschlag

Co-chairs, WI State 4-H Hunt & Dressage Clinic/Show



## **INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM REPORT**

**by Heidi Hochhausen, Cassville, WI**

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Horse Council for sending me to the International Trails Symposium held in Madison, WI in April. It was an amazing experience, meeting so many people that are passionate about trails!

Here are a few things that I learned and want to pass on. Grant Money Available:

There is a State Park Heritage Trust fund for Friends groups of Wisconsin State Parks. [State Park and Forest Heritage Trust Fund | Grant Program for Friends Groups | Wisconsin DNR](#).

“The Wisconsin Legislature created the State Park and Forest Heritage Trust Fund to provide grants to Friends Groups for the maintenance and operations of state parks, southern state forests, state trails or state recreation areas. A Friends Group must have established an endowment fund for the benefit of the property. Only interest generated by the endowment fund can be used as the applicant’s match. “

### **RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)**

“This is a federal program administered in most states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for the development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 80% of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from other state grant programs that also fund trail projects.” This funding comes from gas taxes. [Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\) | Wisconsin DNR](#)

“Broncho Wild Fund is inspired by the epic return of the legendary Ford Bronco®, the Bronco Wild Fund mission begins with a deep respect for our public lands. We're committed to helping sustain the environment and connecting people to the outdoors responsibly.

Bronco Wild Fund and its collaborators help with grants, scholarships, contributions, and an extensive dealer network. A portion of the profits from every Bronco SUV sold goes directly to Bronco Wild Fund collaborator initiatives.” [Ford Bronco® Wild Fund | Ford.com](#)

The signing of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act into law on January 4, 2025, by President Biden marked a transformative moment for outdoor recreation in the United States. This bipartisan legislation, advocated for by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva, represents about a decade of dedicated effort. It is the first law of its kind to prioritize equitable access to public lands, breaking down barriers that have historically limited opportunities for veterans, people with disabilities, and underserved communities.

*Continued on next page...*

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## **INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM REPORT**

Read More: <https://www.explore.com/1768965/what-new-bipartisan-explore-act-means-hike-bike-climb-great-american-outdoors-congress/> At its core, the EXPLORE Act seeks to modernize and expand access to public lands while ensuring the sustainability of outdoor recreation. This legislation encompasses a wide variety of initiatives designed to foster inclusivity and improve outdoor experiences. A significant component of the act is the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program, which is now permanently established. This program provides critical funding to create and improve parks, trails, and green spaces in underserved urban neighborhoods. By addressing the historical lack of investment in these communities, the EXPLORE Act empowers residents to connect with nature in ways that were previously out of reach.

The legislation also introduces measures to improve infrastructure and streamline processes for outfitters and guides who facilitate outdoor experiences. By simplifying permitting systems and reducing financial barriers, the act ensures that outdoor recreation businesses can thrive while helping more people access the outdoors. Additionally, the act invests in modernizing technology at recreation sites, such as increasing broadband connectivity and offering digital recreation passes, making outdoor experiences more sustainable, accessible, and convenient for all. Other key provisions include improving outdoor experiences for veterans and individuals with disabilities by crafting more accessible outdoor spaces, trails, and campgrounds — and through creating more opportunities like fishing, hunting, and boating. [What The New EXPLORE Act Means If You Hike, Bike, Or Climb In The Great American Outdoors](https://www.explore.com/1768965/what-new-bipartisan-explore-act-means-hike-bike-climb-great-american-outdoors-congress/)

Read More: <https://www.explore.com/1768965/what-new-bipartisan-explore-act-means-hike-bike-climb-great-american-outdoors-congress/>

This has led me to the Wisconsin State office of Outdoor Recreation grant page. At my review I do not see any grants for equestrian trails, and I have respectfully submitted a question to them if I have missed it in my review. There are grants for bike trails, 4-wheeler trails, Snowmobile, walking, but no equestrian. Will update you in the future.

Many speakers talked about trail partnerships. The more groups you have buy into your trails, the better the chance of it becoming a reality. You might not want to encourage bikes but birders, cross-country skiers, walkers, etc. might be groups to consider bringing into your plan. Try to activate your people for year-round use. Remind sponsors of positive health outcomes.

One Canadian town has a gear library that you can even check out kayaks.

Thank you!

# Wisconsin Horse Council Trail Grants

*Now is a great time to start  
gathering the required  
information to apply!*



## ***Due date February 1***

- Get your application in early - so the trails committee can review, and ask for additional information if needed.



## ***Required Documents***

- WHC Application
- Letter from Land Manager
- Quote for project
- Maps



## ***Up to \$4000***

- Funds can be used for new trail development
- Trail Improvements on existing trails
- Trail Enhancements

### **WHC Office**

121 S Ludington St,  
PO Box 72  
Columbus WI 53925

920-623-0393

### **More Information**

[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)



**WISCONSIN HORSE  
COUNCIL - TRAILS**

*Up to \$10,000  
available!*

**CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
TRAIL GRANTS**



**Details and application at  
[wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)**



## **Additional Information from the International Trails Symposium**

**By Heidi Hochhausen, Cassville, WI**

There were a lot of classes on using drones for trail mapping. There are all kinds of apps available for trail use. I ran into a Wisconsin State Park Ranger friend at the symposium and he said most of the rangers are already using the apps. American Trails has a lecture you can access online through YouTube called "Technology in Trail Building and Planning: Drones and LiDAR" if you want to learn more about this.

LiDAR, or light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing technique that uses lasers to measure distances and create 3D models of the Earth. Lidar equipment typically includes a laser scanner, GPS, and inertial navigation system (INS), mounted on aircraft or drones.

Drones can quickly and accurately map terrain using photogrammetry, creating 3D models and detailed orthomosaics. This Data helps identify optimal trail alignments, assess slopes, and understand potential challenges like drainage issues.

Drones can capture high-resolution imagery to assess trail width, depth, and the extent of erosion or vegetation encroachment. This allows for efficient identification of areas needing repair or rerouting.

Drones can be used to monitor trail usage patterns, identify areas of high traffic, and assess the impact of visitors on vegetation and other resources. This helps in planning for sustainable trail development and management.

LiDAR is able to see trail potential through dense foliage.

One Canadian group discussed a challenge of trying to get a trail to a beach. They had tried everything including the drones and LiDAR and had resorted to trying to track Caribou migration but not even the Caribou wearing tracking collars made it to the beach so at the time of the lecture they still had not found a route other than by boat. I guess some places are just not accessible on foot, even by Caribou.

Remember to check with your land managers to see if you need special permission to use a drone.

They do not separate grants by activity.

Jess James from Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation encourages anyone to call her to discuss grants available and she will help you research to see if any of the grants will meet your needs. Her number is 715-436-0228 [OutdoorRecreation.wi.gov](http://OutdoorRecreation.wi.gov)

The Wisconsin Horse Council has a Trail Grant Program. All program details and application forms can be found on their website, [www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org) under the "Programs" and "Trails" tabs. The deadline for submission is February 1st of each year.



## Camping and horses, what a combination!



What could be better than a relaxing weekend camping? Camping with your horse, of course! Surrounded by nature, over 50 miles of bridle trails, relaxing around the campfire and hearing the whinnies of horses (and the occasional “HeeHaw” of a mule!) was just made even easier for campers at Horseriders’ Campground in Palmyra, WI! The Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trails Association (SKMHTA) is thrilled to announce the 2025 Corral & Footing projects have been completed. With 20 additional permanent corrals installed on campsites, and footings with proper grading and drainage installed in all corrals, these upgrades continue to bring equestrian campers both experienced and new to Horseriders’ Campground, as they offer a more safe and user friendly experience compared to traditional high line picketing or temporary fencing.

Led by SKMHTA Fundraising Coordinator Barb Linneman, SKMHTA events combined with support of local businesses such as West 20 Ranch & Saddle Company and Wild 3L Ranch, as well as \$5000 in Trail Grants awarded by the Wisconsin Horse Council, raised over \$20,000 to install these upgrades. A team of energized volunteers, including SKMHTA Trail Coordinator Duane Domagalski, installed the 20 new corrals on campsites early this spring. The local Kettle Moraine State Forest DNR staff of Eagle, WI has worked hard to ensure a well drained, stable base for each corral will allow a mud free, easy to clean experience! The SKMHTA wishes to thank all of their sponsors, volunteers and supporters for their efforts!



Horseriders’ Campground, located in Palmyra, WI and surrounded by the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit, is an equestrian only campground operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and supported by local not-for-profit group, the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trails Association (SKMHTA). Visit: [SKMHTA.com](http://SKMHTA.com)





# RIDE WISCONSIN

**Award Program  
for Trail Riders/Drivers**



**Get out and enjoy the trails  
with your equine partner and earn rewards  
for your hours riding/driving the trails!**



Visit the WHC website for all of the  
guidelines, forms & application!

**SHARE THE TRAILS**

[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)







## 2026 WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL Ride Wisconsin - Trail Riding/Driving Award Program Application Form

To participate in the Trail Riding/Driving Award program, please complete this application. Forward the completed application and all applicable fees to the address shown at the bottom of this application form. We invite you to join and have fun with your horse.

**Please check one:**

- ☐ Current WHC Individual/Family or Youth member *OR*  
☐ New WHC Individual/Family or Youth member  
 (Include WHC Membership Application, check WHC website for other benefits of membership)

**Please check one:**

- ☐ Current Trail Riding/Driving Award program member *OR*  
☐ New Trail Riding/Driving Award program member

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street/P.O. Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrolling Additional Family Members:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Equine-related clubs you belong to:**

**Program Fees:** *(Fee is per individual participating. Fee accepted for current year only)*

Annual Trails Riding/Driving Program Fee \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual WHC Individual Membership fee: \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual WHC Family Membership fee \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like a copy of the newsletter printed \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed. Make checks payable to WHC:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions/Comments:** Jill Feller, Program Coordinator – 920-948-9502 – [jfeller5732@outlook.com](mailto:jfeller5732@outlook.com)

**WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL**

**Ride Wisconsin – Trail Riding/Driving Award Program**

**121 S. Ludington Street**

**P.O. Box 72**

**Columbus, WI 53925**

**Voice: 920-623-0393**



# Wisconsin Horse Council

**ATTENTION !**

**FREE....Upcoming Events section on Website.**

We have created a section on our website for your upcoming events...FREE..... You can send (email) us any EQUINE related event (shows, tack sale, clinic, meetings, events etc.) and we will put it on our website free of charge. All you need to do is send us a copy of your event with a contact phone number and we will list it for all to see.

*Questions-call 920-623-0393/email [info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](mailto:info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)*

I would like this event posted on the Wisconsin Horse Council website.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)

920-623-0393

121 S. Ludington St. Columbus, WI 53925





## WHC Calendar of Upcoming Events



### January 2026

<b>January 1</b>	<b>Happy New Year!</b>
January 1	WSHCEF Scholarship Application Submission Deadline
January 10	WHC Annual Awards Nomination Submission Deadline
January 21	Ag Day at the Capitol, Madison, WI
January 27	WHC District 1 Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
January 28	<b>WHC BOD Monthly Meeting, 121 S. Ludington St., Columbus, WI 53925, 7 p.m.</b>
January 31	WHC Ride Wisconsin Program Hour Log for 2025 Submission Deadline

### February 2026

February 1	WHC Trail Grant Application Submission Deadline
<b>February 2</b>	<b>Groundhog Day</b>
February 14	WSHCEF's Annual "Winter Fun Day"
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b>
February 15	WHC Proposed Bylaw Submission Deadline
<b>February 16</b>	<b>Presidents' Day</b>
<b>February 25</b>	<b>WHC Monthly BOD Monthly Meeting, 121 S. Ludington St., Columbus, WI 53925, 7 p.m.</b>
February 28	WHC Roundup Program Map Submission Deadline
February 28	WHC Sponsorship Application Submission Deadline

\*\*\* Also check WI Pleasure Horse Shows on Facebook! \*\*\*



## Wisconsin Horse Council Trails Committee

Proudly working with the horse community to provide Trail Grants,  
Trail Building Master Certification, updates to trailmeister.com, and more!



## WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*\*All Memberships run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>\**

Office Use Only:

Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LEVEL I MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**Individual** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth** Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Family** Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Horses: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LEVEL I MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS** (Please check type of Membership & choice of newsletter.)

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (no insurance) .....  | \$ 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership PLUS (includes \$1 Million personal liability insurance) .....  | \$ 45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (no insurance) .....  | \$ 30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership PLUS (includes \$1 Million personal liability insurance) .....  | \$ 80  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (age 17 & under = free with <b><u>paid</u></b> Level I adult membership) .....  | \$ 0   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime Membership ( <b><i>one-time fee which includes the 1<sup>st</sup> year of liability insurance</i></b> ) ..... | \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual fee on Lifetime Membership for \$1 Million personal liability insurance.....   | \$ 25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Printed Newsletter mailed to the address above.....   | \$ 30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free E-newsletter sent to the e-mail listed above.....  | \$ 0   |

### **Description:**

Level I membership class is available to any individual/family whose interests are similar to those of the Council and is for individuals/families only. Level I and Level II members elect Directors to the WHC Board to represent their District. Family membership is for a family of 2 or more living at the same residence and has 1 vote in the elections and business of their District. Membership must be current to vote at District meetings.

- Programs such as the Certified Judges and Ride Wisconsin require a Level I membership - even if you are a Director or a contact person for a Level II or III organization, you will need to be a Level I member yourself to participate in programs.
- Youth (17 & under) are free with a **paid** Level I adult membership.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP is an individual Level I membership with a one-time fee, giving the individual a paid-up membership for his/her lifetime. If LIFETIME MEMBERS wish to retain the \$1 Million personal liability insurance after their first year, they must purchase it on an annual basis.

Wisconsin Horse Council does not sell or distribute our membership list. Information is kept private for use only by our organization for WHC business.

**Membership dues, payments and gifts to Wisconsin Horse Council are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Such payments may be deductible under the Internal Revenue Code as ordinary and necessary business expenses.**

Return application and payment to:

**Wisconsin Horse Council**  
P.O. Box 72  
Columbus, WI 53925  
Phone: 920-623-0393  
[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)



*This \$1,000,000 policy is an optional member benefit.*

*Become an individual member of WHC and choose this valuable protection.*

*The value of this benefit is tremendous! Cost of equine liability insurance is estimated to range from \$300-\$400 per year to the average horse owner... if purchased individually.*

**Wisconsin Horse Council Individual Membership Cost w/ Excess Liability Insurance: only \$40 per year.**

*In addition to \$1,000,000 equine excess personal liability insurance protection, your membership in Wisconsin Horse Council helps to:*

- ♦ Foster a unified equine industry in Wisconsin
- ♦ Promote the value of our industry, protect the welfare of our horses and preserve our chosen way of life
- ♦ Promote improved health and well-being of Wisconsin horses
- ♦ Honor those who have invested their time and money in growing and developing our industry
- ♦ Promote responsible horse ownership, equestrian safety and youth programs



121 S. Ludington St.  
P.O. Box 72  
Columbus, WI 53925  
Phone: (920) 623-0393

[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)



## Making A Difference for Equine Owners

# \$1,000,000

**Equine Excess Personal Liability Insurance**





# **WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*\*All Memberships run from January 1<sup>st</sup>  
through December 31<sup>st</sup>*

## **LEVEL I MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**Individual** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Youth** Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
**Family** Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write legibly, especially e-mail**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LEVEL I MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS - (Please circle type of Membership)**

**FREE** e-newsletter with any paid membership;  
sent to your e-mail.

OR

**Printed newsletter mailed to you \_\_\_\_\_ + \$30**

Individual (no insurance) \$ 20

Individual **PLUS** \$ 45

incl. \$1 million personal liability insurance

Family (no insurance) \$ 30

Family **PLUS** \$ 80

incl. \$1 million personal liability insurance

Youth (age 17 & under = free (with

paid Level I adult membership) \$ 0

Individual Lifetime Membership (one-time fee &

includes 1<sup>st</sup> year of liability insurance) \$ 250

Annual fee on Lifetime Membership for

\$1 million personal liability insurance \$ 25

☐ NEW ☐ RENEW

## **Coverage Highlights \***

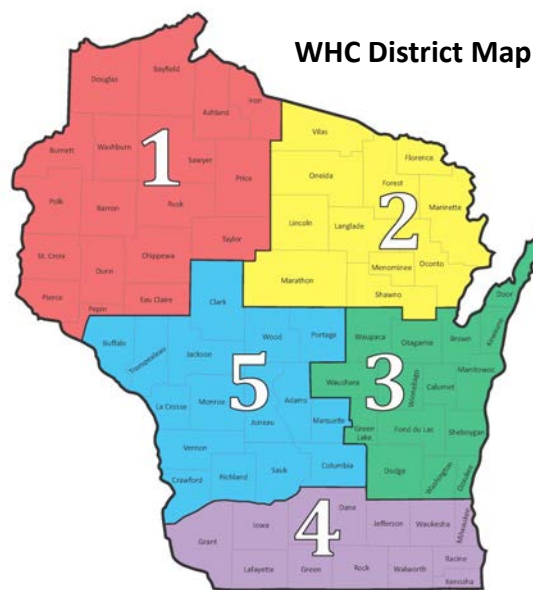
- ◆ Legal liability which may result from an accident or occurrence involving a WHC Member's horse or horse-drawn vehicle. Protection is provided for the negligence arising out of the use, or ownership, which may cause accidental bodily injury or property damage, including damage to another horse.
- ◆ Protection is provided if you are performing or competing in horse shows, clinics or demonstrations.
- ◆ Damages caused by a horse while grazing, stabled, or where the horse is not in the control of the Member.
- ◆ Defense and legal costs affiliated or in connection with any claim.
- ◆ Coverage is included for the Member giving permission to any person to use his horse or horse-drawn vehicle.
- ◆ Protection is considered "excess" over any valid and/or collectable insurance (i.e. farm, home, etc.) For Members without primary policies the excess liability will be considered "primary".
- ◆ Children under 18 years of age are covered under a parent's policy.
- ◆ Any horse, pony or mule is considered eligible under the terms and condition of the policy.
- ◆ You do not have to be a Wisconsin resident to become a WHC individual member and get this protection.
- ◆ Business and professional pursuits, rodeo, and racing exposures are excluded.
- ◆ Coverage is provided through Equisure, Inc., one of the nation's leading equine insurance specialists, and underwritten at Lloyd's, London.  
\* Please see *policy for complete terms.*

*If an owner's horse  
hurts someone or  
damages someone's  
property, the rider and  
owner can be held  
responsible for the  
damages. Even if  
proven not liable, you  
could incur  
considerable legal  
defense costs.*

*Seldom is equine  
liability insurance  
extended from home-  
owners policies.*

**\$1,000,000 Equine  
Excess Personal  
Liability Insurance is  
an optional benefit  
available with an  
Individual or Family  
membership with the  
Wisconsin Horse  
Council.**





WHC District Map

**WHC District 1:**

Contact - Paulette Adair

715-554-2904

cca2lucky@gmail.com

**WHC District 2:**

Contact - Kevin Griepentrog

715-203-5401

gkevin@midwestcapitalpartners.com

**WHC District 3:**

Contact - Katie Bachhuber

920-539-0601

rideendurance2@yahoo.com

**WHC District 4:**

Contact - Floyd Finney

608-201-9539

floyd-diane@outlook.com

**WHC District 5:**

Contact - Mark Long

715-323-3666

yeahicanfixthat2@gmail.com

District 1 includes the counties of: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor and Washburn

District 2 includes the counties of: Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas

District 3 includes the counties of: Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowish, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago

District 4 includes the counties of: Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha

District 5 includes the counties of: Adams, Buffalo, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood

**CouncilLetter Deadline**

*The deadline for articles, upcoming events and advertisements for the WHC CouncilLetter is:*

**March / April Issue:  
February 15th at noon**

*Articles must be equine related, may not be for commercial benefit and must be sent to us in a timely fashion. The Editor reserves the right to revise or refuse articles.*

*Ads and articles are best sent in electronic format (prefer MS Word or Adobe Acrobat) to:*

**[info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](mailto:info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)**

**Office hours: Monday-Friday - 8am-4pm**



*Join us on Facebook and become a friend. You will receive the most up-to-date information and connect with fellow horse people.*

**[www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org)**



## Important Dates to Remember



January 1	Happy New Year!
January 1	WSHCEF Scholarship Application Submission Deadline
January 10	WHC Annual Awards Nomination Submission Deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21	Ag Day at the Capitol
January 28	WHC BOD Monthly Meeting
January 31	WHC Ride WI Program Hour Log Submission Deadline for 2025

February 1	WHC Trail Grant Application Submission Deadline
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 14	WSHCEF's Annual "Winter Fun Day"
February 14	Happy Valentine's Day!
February 15	WHC Proposed Bylaw Submission Deadline
February 16	Presidents' Day
February 25	WHC Monthly Board of Director Meeting
February 28	WHC Roundup Program Map Submission Deadline
February 28	WHC Sponsorship Application Submission Deadline



*\* Please check out our Calendar of Upcoming Events, included in each issue of the CouncilLetter, as well as posted on the WHC website, for shows, fundraisers, clinics, tack sales and more!*



*Join us on Facebook and become a friend. You will receive the most up-to-date information and connect with fellow horse people.*

