

Welcome to Driving Trail Challenges

- ❖ This event is sanctioned and insured by NCTHA (National Competitive Trail Horse Association)
- ❖ NCTHA members are eligible for yearend awards (www.nctha.com)
- ❖ All equine pulling a wheeled vehicle are eligible to compete (harness and vehicle must be deemed safe by judge)
- ❖ There is no dress code – “Fancy Hat” contest at closing awards
- ❖ Drivers will be sent out in intervals to avoid backups at obstacles and trail conditioning
- ❖ Six to ten judged obstacles worth 5 to 15 points each, drivers earn points for final scores within their division
- ❖ Each driver will receive a score card with details of performance
- ❖ This one day event starting at 9:30 am, check-in begins the day before and morning of the event
- ❖ There are three divisions:
 - VSE – under 39 inches
 - Pony – 14.2 & under
 - Horses – 14.3 & over
- ❖ Passengers are allowed in vehicles but must complete all of the trail and obstacles
- ❖ Three phases to the competition, in camp and on the trail (2 to 8 miles of trail)
- ❖ When judging is complete, awards will follow (1st, 2nd and 3rd place within divisions, High Point and Reserve High Point overall divisions)

Driving Trail Challenge Agenda

1. Check in
2. Ride briefing
3. Phase One – on trail and in camp (2 to 4 miles of trail)
 - Safety check of harness

- Soundness check of horse
- On trail obstacles:
 - Maneuver horse at a walk
 - Turning, stopping, backing
 - Timed obstacle pattern (penalties for hitting cones)
 - Transition into gaits
- Training
 - Good control of horse – listens to driver, on the bit, walk or working trot
 - Negative response of horse – gapping mouth, resisting bit, running through bit, behind bit, tossing of head, refusal to proceed or stop
- 4. Phase Two – on trail (2 to 4 miles of trail)
 - Trail conditioning
 - General will repeat trail
 - Required to verify completion of trail with checkpoints
 - Pulse and respiration when completed
- 5. Phase Three – in camp
 - In hand presentation
 - Trotting in hand
 - Lunging horse both directions
 - Sending horse over object
 - Backing horse up
- 6. Awards