

Welcome to Driving Trail Challenges

- ❖ This event is sanctioned and insured by NCTHA (National Competitive Trail Horse Association)
- ❖ Competitors are eligible for yearend awards
- ❖ All equine pulling a wheeled vehicle are qualified 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, observations 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 – 39” and under
 - Pony – 14’2” and under
 - Horses - over 14’2”
- ❖ Passengers are allowed in vehicles but must complete all of the trail and obstacles once started (dogs are allowed in carts but must be secured, and must stay on leash at all times in camp)
- ❖ Three phases to the competition, in camp and on the trail (4 to 8 miles of trail)
- ❖ When judging is complete, awards will follow

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/camp obstacles:
 - Maneuver horse at a walk
 - Turning, stopping, & backing
 - Timed obstacle pattern (penalties for hitting cones)
 - Transition into gaits
 - Terrain: downhill, uphill, water crossing, and trail
 - Observations
 - Good control of horse – listens to driver, on the bit, walk or working trot
 - Negative response from horse – gapping mouth, resisting bit, running through bit, behind bit, tossing of head, refusal to proceed or to stop
4. Phase Two – on trail (2 to 4 miles of trail)
 - Trail conditioning
 - Drivers will general repeat trail, timed out at intervals
 - Required to verify completion of trail with checkpoints
 - Pulse and respiration check entering camp, followed by 10 minute recovery check
5. Phase Three – in camp
 - In hand presentation
 - Leading, trotting in hand
 - Lunging horse both directions
 - Sending horse over object
 - Backing horse up
6. Awards – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place within divisions, High Point and Reserve High Point overall divisions