



Trail Horse Test Program

What is it?

Why host one?



Trail Horse Test Program

Objectives

Provide a structured program to **SHOWCASE HORSE'S ACHIEVEMENTS**.

- Highlight the well-trained horse.
- Bragging rights for the owners.

Provide a **REVENUE** generating program.

- Farm or Region retains profit from hosting the event.
- Trainers get horses in training in order to acquire skills to advance to next level.
- Expand grassroots horse involvement.

INCREASE THE VALUE of the “Just a Trail Horse”.

- Level achieved is recognized by PFHA and recorded in horse's registry record.
- Stallions and dams are recognized for their tractable offspring.
- Potential buyers can use tests to ascertain level of horse's training.



Trail Horse Test Program

Showcase Horse's Achievements

Highlights Horse's Training - Three Levels of Achievements.

- Junior – Horse shows reasonable obedience and willingness.
- Senior – Horse completes test willingly and consistently.
- Master – Horse shows complete obedience. The horse you let your grandkids ride.

Owner's Accomplishments are Rewarded

- Horses are awarded Certificates, patches, and tack at each level.
- Judge provides graded score card showing where horse excelled or needs training

Share on **FaceBook**.

- Trail Horse Test Program – Public Group with 419 members

Highlight Horse's Training

TRAIL HORSE JUDGES CARD

Date of the Test:	Location of the Test:
Rider's Name:	Rider's Number:
Level Testing: Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> Master <input type="checkbox"/>	
Horse's Name:	Barn Name:

Score each test element individually from zero (0) through five (5). Zero meaning did not complete the test element. Five meaning exceptionally completed the test element. Three reflects the horse satisfactorily completed the test element. This score card may be used for all levels. The elements labeled N/R are not required for the level. For example, Trailer loading/unloading is not required at the Master Level because the horse has already been tested at the Junior and Senior Level.

TEST CATEGORIES & ELEMENTS	Junior Score	Senior Score	Master Score	JUDGE'S COMMENTS
1. TRAILER LOADING/UNLOADING				
1.1 Load			N/R	
1.2 Stand in the trailer.			N/R	
1.3 Unload			N/R	
TOTAL FOR TRAILER				
2. GROOMING AND TACKING				
2.1 Tie the horse.			N/R	
2.2 Brush the horse			N/R	
2.3 Pick out the horse's hooves.			N/R	
2.4 Fly spray the horse.			N/R	
2.5 Saddle the horse.			N/R	
2.6 Bridle the horse (Bit is optional)			N/R	
TOTAL FOR GROOMING				
3. GROUND WORK EXERCISES				
3.1 Lead the horse			N/R	
3.2 Stop and back on the lead			N/R	
3.3 Lunge				
3.4 Turn on the forehand. Move the hips.				
3.5 Turn on the haunches. Move the shoulders.				
TOTAL FOR GROUND WORK				
4. EXERCISES UNDER SADDLE				
4.1 Mount with a mounting block			N/R	
4.2 Walk			N/R	
4.3 Stop/Halt			N/R	
4.4 Back			N/R	
4.5 Speed up and slow down at the walk			N/R	
4.6 Canto/Trot/Jog (Second Speed)				
4.7 Transition to walk from Canto/Trot/Jog				
4.8 Largo (Third Speed)				
4.9 Transition to a walk from Largo (Third Speed)				
4.10 Canter/Lope (N/R for gaited horse)	N/R			
4.11 Transition to walk from Canter (N/R for gaited horse)	N/R			
4.12 Leg yield	N/R			
4.13 Side pass	N/R			
4.14 Turn on the forehand. Move the hips.				
4.15 Turn on the haunches. Move the shoulders.				
TOTAL FOR SADDLE WORK				

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Level Testing: Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> Master <input type="checkbox"/>	
Horse's Name:	Barn Name:

TEST ELEMENT	Junior Score	Senior Score	Master Score	JUDGE'S COMMENTS
5. PERFORMANCE ON THE TRAIL				
5.1 Way of going on the trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attitude Temperament Positive interaction with other horses 				
5.2 Position in the line of horses				
5.3 Pass other horses on the trail				
5.4 Leaves the group of horses on the trail				
TOTAL FOR TRAIL PERFORMANCE				
6. MANUEVERING THROUGH TRAIL OBSTACLES	4-6 Obstacles	6-8 Obstacles	10 or more Obstacles	
6.1 Back through a pattern			R	
6.2 Open and close gate			R	
6.3 Walk through vines/branches				
6.4 Water Crossing or Tarp			R	
6.5 Rider puts on jacket				
6.6 Drag tree limbs				
6.7 Meet walkers/bicycles on trail				
6.8 Cross bridge/road				
6.9 Climb and descend hill				
6.10 Encounter dogs/ animals				
6.11 Pony a horse				
6.12 Weave the poles				
6.13 Mail Box				
6.14 Side pass over a log			R	
6.15				
6.16				
6.17				
6.18				
6.19				
6.20				
TOTAL FOR TRAIL OBSTACLES				
7. OVERALL ATTITUDE AND TEMPERAMENT				
7.1 Attitude toward commands				
7.2 Temperament of the horse				
TOTAL-ATTITUDE/TEMPERAMENT				

Level Passed (Circle Awards Earned) Novice Junior Senior Master

Judge's Signature: _____



Trail Horse Test Program

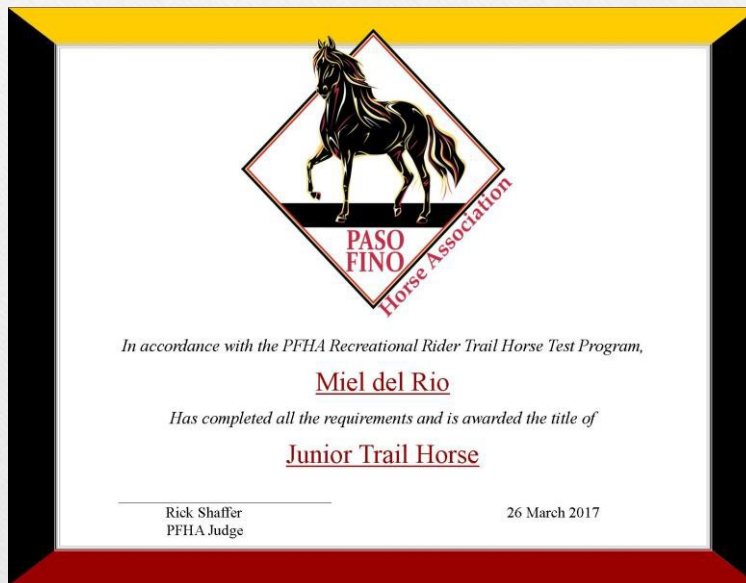
Owner's Bragging Rights

Level Achieved recorded in PFHA Registry

Certificates, patches and tack awarded



Halter awarded
to Senior



Saddle pad awarded
to Master



Trail Horse Test Program Revenue Generator

Host Retains Profit from the Two-Day Event. **Profit = \$1,740**

Training clinic first day. Test on second day.

- 12 Horses @ \$200 per horse = \$2,400; 12 Stalls @\$25 = \$300; 6 Auditors @ \$25 = \$150
- Can apply for state Horse Industry Board Grants to encourage participation.

Total Revenue \$2,850

- Judges Fee \$500; Judges Travel Expenses \$250
- Venue – Usually free at host's farm; Insurance \$100
- PFHA fees - \$20 Application fee, \$12 per Junior test, \$20 per Senior test, \$50 per Master test. Some host ask participant to pay this fee.
- Food – Usually potluck

Total Expenses \$1,110

Trainers get new clients.

- Horses come to training barns in order to acquire skills to advance to next level.
- Trainers create a circuit of farms where they conduct training sessions.

Expand Grassroots Horse Involvement.

- Program is opened to all breeds.
- Fun event that brings horse people together. **Synergy!**



Trail Horse Test Program

Increase the Value of the Horse

Level Achieved is Recorded in Horse' Registry Record

- **PFHA does not CERTIFY the horse.**
- Rather records that on a given day, the horse passed the requirements of the program. Much like a National showtitle.

Potential buyers can research PFHA Registry

- Registry will show which bloodlines have advanced in the program.
- Which stallions/dams produced the most "Master Trail Horses"?

Test can be used as a Presale Evaluation

- Test exercises show the temperament and training of the horse.



Trail Horse Test Program Program's Success

28 Tests Events Conducted since 2017

- Conducted tests in
OK, PA, VA, MD, NY, NJ, SC, NC, TX, GA, UT, FL

221 Horses Tested

- 117 Tests of Registered Paso Fino Horses
- 6 Tests of Un-Registered Paso Fino Horses
- Mule, Icelandic, Tennessee Walkers, Rocky Mountain, Quarter Horses, Thoroughbreds, Arabian, Fox Trotter, Gypsy Banner, Morgan, Kentucky Mountain, Peruvian

Awards Given

- 3 Masters - 2 Registered Paso Fino Horses, 1 Paint Horse
- 48 Seniors
- 155 Juniors
- 15 Novice

Over \$3,700 Revenue Generated for PFHA



Trail Horse Test Program

How to Host a Trail Horse Test

Event Schedule

- Two Day Event. 12 Horses is best.
- First Day – Individual instruction of the test exercises.
- Second Day – 3 hours needed to complete test. Stagger the test start times.
 - 6 in morning session, 6 in afternoon session.

Venue

- Need insurance coverage. Most add the event to their farm insurance.
- Do not need an arena.
- Best to test in open area that simulates trail.
- Obstacles can be anything available. Poles, cones, tarps, branches.
- Scary obstacles that shows horse's confidence.
- Skilled obstacles that shows horse's obedience to commands.



Trail Horse Test Program

How to Host a Trail Horse Test

Personnel

- **Host** who is financially responsible for the event.
- One of PFHA approved **Judges**.
 - Rick Shaffer, Nola Hauptert-Keill, Vickie McQuinn, Robin Ratliff, Konny Troupe, Christy Taylor, Keith Andries, Todd Lowman, Paul Marlowe
- Person to record scores during the test. Host can do this.

Paperwork and Fees

- Application sent to PFHA requesting to hold the event. \$20.00 fee.
- PFHA will help advertise event. Record the results and send out awards.
- Host submits fees and results to PFHA.
 - \$12 per Junior Test, \$20 per Senior Test, \$50, per Master Test. This covers awards.