Trail Challenge Description & Rules

Overview:
Our Trail Challenge is a way to promote good horsemanship skills and provide an educational experience for riders, horses, and horse lovers of all levels. The Challenge tests both horse and rider on their ability to work together as a "TEAM" and navigate through obstacles which may be experienced on the trail. The goal of this challenge is to improve the relationship between horse and rider by introducing them to new experiences as a Team. Each Team will encounter various obstacles and sometimes challenging trail situations, which will better prepare both horse and rider to negotiate with accuracy.

Each Team will be judged on how well the horse and rider work together to get through each obstacle. Judging will be based on how each Team negotiates each obstacle with calmness, patience and safety. The Team should demonstrate the ability to work their way through each obstacle.

The judge has the right to ask the rider to pass an obstacle if he/she feels it will be unsafe. Control of the horse must be maintained throughout the event. Judges will be happy to answer any questions or demonstrate each obstacle. This is an educational experience, so each Team can have the opportunity to understand what is being asked of them.

Each obstacle can receive a maximum score of 10 to 25 points. Teams are limited to three (3) refusals at each obstacle, or a maximum of three (3) minutes to successfully navigate the obstacle. Judges have the right to ask the Team to move on to the next obstacle. Riders are encouraged to attempt an obstacle, as no attempt will equal a zero (0) score.

DIVISIONS
Jr. Youth: Any participant that is 6 to 12 years old. Helmets are REQUIRED for all youth riders.
Sr. Youth: Any participant that is 13 to 17 years old. Helmets are REQUIRED for all youth riders.
Beginner Adult: Any rider 18 years and older that has NEVER competed in a Trail Challenge before.
Open Adult: Any rider 18 years and older.
Green Horse: Any horse that is under the age of 5 and has NEVER competed in a Trail Challenge before.

GENERAL RULES

1. Each participant must sign a Registration/Release Form before they can participate. Youth under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a Registration/Release Form.
2. Proof of **NEGATIVE** Coggins and Rabies is required on all horses. Coggins must be dated within ONE YEAR for in-state horses, and SIX MONTHS for all out of state horses.
3. To be eligible for year-end awards, each horse/rider team must compete in at least 2 of the 3 trail challenge events. Year-end points will be tallied by the total points earned by a horse/rider team in each division. Each division will be placed Champion & Reserve Champion for year-end based on the total combined points of all obstacles offered in each division at each Trail Challenge Event.
4. Cold Brook Stables, or any person connected with the planning of this event will not be held responsible for any accidents or injuries to horses, riders, spectators, or property.
5. There will be a $40 service fee charge on all checks returned for insufficient funds.
6. Any type of inhumane treatment to a horse, including, but not limited to, excessive spurring or whipping or excessive jerking of the reins is prohibited.
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening or abusive is prohibited.
8. Long pants & footwear with a heel & smooth sole must be worn when on a horse.
9. No unsound horses will be allowed to participate on the Trail Ride.
10. Participants must stay on designated trail.
11. No firearms, fireworks or noisemakers allowed.
12. No smoking on the trail.
13. An adult must accompany children under the age of 15.
14. Minimum age of a Trail Ride Participant riding a horse is 6 years old.
15. Participants should ride in an orderly and safe manner.
16. A red ribbon should be attached to the tail of a kicking horse to warn other participants of potential danger.
17. No littering.
18. No loose horses.