

AQHA RECREATIONAL EVENTS GUIDEBOOK

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Recreational Event Guidebook

Part 1: Background of Recreational Events

BACKGROUND OF RECREATIONAL EVENTS

AQHA's Recreational Events consists of two types:

- AQHA Trail Rides
- AQHA Trail Challenges.

AQHA Trail Rides and AQHA Trail Challenges are collectively referred to as "Recreational Events".

AQHA Recreational Events are governed by the rules and regulations contained in this AQHA Recreational Events Guidebook ("Guidebook") and AQHA's Official Handbook. This Guidebook was developed to assist you in organizing and producing your Recreational Events. Recreational Events can be a great benefit for everyone involved and have the potential to raise money for your organization as well as local charities. As a condition of participating, all participants and owners agree to abide by the Recreational Event Rules.

With the exception of certain rules and guidelines attached as **AQHA General Recreational Event Rules**, the rules and guidelines for AQHA Trail Rides and AQHA Trail Challenges are the same.

The Term "Event Coordinator" applies to the individual responsible for submitting the forms referenced, coordinating a Trail Ride/Trail Challenge and ensuring that a Recreational Event is conducted in accordance with AQHA General Recreational Event Rules.

AQHA will notify Event Coordinator whether or not AQHA has approved Event Coordinator's proposed Trail Ride or Trail Challenge.

AQHA TRAIL RIDE PROGRAM

The AQHA Trail Ride program allows people from around the world to come together and celebrate their love of horseback riding. The program allows for horse enthusiasts who enjoy trail riding and meeting other recreational riders.

Each year, more than 80 AQHA rides are held across the country and around the world. All riders and breeds are welcome to take part in exploring great trails and forming new friendships.

Riders enrolled in the AQHA Horseback Riding Program will earn double the hours of those trail rides. Further information regarding the Horseback Riding can be found further along in the guidebook.

AQHA helps event coordinators market trail rides in multiple ways:

- Production of official AQHA Trail Ride posters with information on your event
- Event will be listed on AQHA's website
- Event listed on Ride hotline
- Event listed on Ride advertisements in AQHA and other industry publications

AQHA TRAIL CHALLENGE

AQHA Trail Challenge is a judged course that tests a horse and rider's ability to work as a partnership and navigate obstacles they might experience on a trail. The obstacles should be designed to enhance the horsemanship skills riders need on the trail while maintaining a natural feel.

There are generally six to sixteen obstacles in any given Trail Challenge. A judge or judges are located throughout the course evaluating a rider's skill to maneuver his horse through the obstacle. Each horse and rider team starts out with a value of 70 and then gains or loses value, depending on their ability to navigate the course.

AQHA will recognize an American Quarter Horse and all breed division at each Trail Challenge. Every division will include a youth and adult category. Within the categories are three levels (master, intermediate, training) and the Trail Challenge class order is recommended to be master, intermediate then training. AQHA encourages a horse and rider combination to enter into a skill level at each Trail Challenge that is appropriate for their abilities. Those aboard an American Quarter Horse will have the opportunity to earn Trail Challenge Merits (TCM). Merits are recognition for deserving top placing Partnership and will be noted on the Horse's achievement records at AQHA.

First place (1st) – 3 merits

Second place (2nd) – 2.5 merits

Third place (3rd) – 2 merits

Fourth place (4th) – 1.5 merits

Fifth place (5th) – 1 merit

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible for TCM, the person competing must be a current member in good standing of AQHA or AQHYA as per Rule GEN104 of *AQHA's Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations* and if applicable, a current member of the alliance organization (e.g. National Competitive Trail Horse Association).

RULES:

Each obstacle is judged on how the Partnership works together. This working team should negotiate each obstacle with calmness and patience, moving safely through the obstacle. Horses should show awareness, be attentive and not spook, shy or spin. The Horse should not stumble, tick or clip obstacle(s).

The Partnership should demonstrate the ability to pick its way through the Course when obstacles warrant it, and the Horse should willingly respond to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

It is important the Horse exhibits manners, responds to the rider and demonstrates quality of movement. Horses should be relaxed and not display resistance. Credit will be given to Partnerships negotiating the obstacle with style and appropriate rate of progress, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Merits are secondary to safety.

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.

Stallions may compete in adult classes. No youth shall exhibit a stallion in any class. Minimum age of Horse to compete is three (3) years of age. **If a Trail Challenge is held in conjunction with an AQHA Trail Ride, stallions cannot attend.**

REGISTRATION:

Each rider must complete an official Registration/Release Form. Registration fee(s) will be determined by the Trail Challenge host. Sign up time, starting and finishing times, and extra activities will be posted on AQHA's Web site. There may be additional rules posted on the Event site.

Once a rider has completed the official Registration/Release Form and paid appropriate fee(s) to compete, he/she will receive a rider packet with name tag/number, rules, maps, score card and any other pertinent information about the event.

OBSTACLES:

There are generally six (6) – sixteen (16) obstacles in any given Trail Challenge. This will vary depending on land and terrain of the property. In some cases, there may be one (1) obstacle incorporating several obstacles that flow together. Some obstacles should test if the Partnership is able to trust each other. For example, if the obstacle is to rope a steer head, the object is not to judge the ability to rope the steer, but the patience the Partnership gives to one another in completing the task at hand.

Natural setting obstacles are preferred; however, manmade obstacles can be used and can be permanent places on a designed Course. Caution should be taken to avoid injury. Some obstacles can cut a Horse and can be slippery. Additionally, consideration should be taken when jumping logs in a western saddle.

Obstacles should be clearly marked and numbered. Course pattern should be posted at least one (1) hour before the event starting time. Riders should complete obstacles in order they are laid out in the Course. If there is a number of Horses and riders at a given obstacle, it is up to the judge to allow Partnerships to move to the next obstacle and return.

The Course should be posted at least one (1) hour before the start of the Trail Challenge. Obstacles should have three (3) different levels of difficulty. All riders are required to attend a pre-ride meeting. All judges must be present at the meeting to identify themselves to participants and answer any questions riders might have before beginning the Course.

Judges will be happy to answer any questions or demonstrate each obstacle. Because this is considered an educational experience, each Partnership should have the opportunity to understand what is being asked of them.

Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score. Riders 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 Partnership to move on to the next obstacle. Riders are encouraged to attempt an obstacle, as no attempt will equal zero (0) score.

SUGGESTED OBSTACLES:

The Course is at the discretion of the Trail Challenge Ride Coordinator, AQHA Recreational Advisor, AQHA management and/or judge. Obstacles should be constructed of safe material, consider safety of the various levels of Partnerships and test Horse and rider skills. When possible, utilize the topography of the property to design the Course.

These are suggested obstacles to include, but not be limited to, and other obstacles used are allowed:

Obstacle 1: The Gate

Requires mounted rider to open and close a gate. Credit can be given for positioning of Horse, opening gate and closing gate. More value can be earned by keeping hand on gate at all times.

Obstacle 2: The Junk yard

Requires rider to instruct Horse to step over a series of marked logs on the "road" while ducking under branches. Credits can be given for each log stepped over. Additional values can be given for staying on the "road" and Horse lifting feet or feet position to clear logs.

Obstacle 3: Cache Your Food

Requires rider to ride Horse up to a tarp lying on the ground, take rope from the judge, walk Horse away to lift tarp off the ground, and walk back to gently lower tarp back to ground. Extra credit can be given for facing tarp while lifting and for lifting tarp at least 3 inches.

Obstacle 4: Move the Slicker

Requires mounted rider to enter grove of trees, pick up slicker in left hand, carry slicker around trees, and into a "chute". Rider then backs up and around trees and hangs slicker on new tree using right hand. Credit is given for touching, lifting, carrying slicker in hand or across saddle, backing, and hanging it back up. Additional credit may be given for backing around trees into position and pulling slicker over Horse to hang with right hand.

Obstacle 5: Take a Shower

Requires rider to ride Horse across two painted lines and calmly walk through shredded shower curtain strung between two trees. A value is given for stepping over each line, three values for calm walk-through, two values for bolting through or one value for dismounting and leading through.

Obstacle 6: The Mail Dragon

Requires mounted rider to pick up saddlebag hanging on a dead tree, carry the bag to the mailbox, extract a piece of paper and place a new paper in the bag, and return bag to branch. Extra value can be given for laying the saddlebag over saddle.

Obstacle 7: The Lemonade Stand

Requires rider to dismount, lead Horse to a table for a drink, a type of snack and return to Horse to remount. Credits are based on dismount, leading the Horse to the table and remounting. Additional difficulty to this obstacle could include: having to dismount and mount on off side or, using a mounting block.

Obstacle guidelines:

Leading: Horse is to follow willingly, not lagging or crowding. Horse must be led by a lead rope or unclipped reins.

Mounting: Rider must always check cinch before mounting; stirrup does not need to be laid over the saddle. Horse is to stand quietly and not move out when mounted. A smooth mount does not unbalance the Horse.

Dismounting: Horse is to stand quietly and not move off. Style of dismount by the rider is a smooth dismount that does not unbalance the Horse. Reins should remain in hand.

Hoof Check: Horse is to stand quietly.

Water Crossing: The Horse should walk through the water quietly in a continued forward movement. The Horse shall not be penalized for checking out the water before crossing.

Uphill: Rider should be positioned appropriately to maintain the center of balance. Rider and Horse are to negotiate slope in safe manner. *Downhill:* Rider should be positioned appropriately to maintain center of balance. Rider and Horse are to negotiate slope in a safe manner. Rider may use a hand to support himself on the mane or saddle.

Stepover: Horse may hesitate and check out obstacle before proceeding over without striking the obstacle. Smaller Horses are not penalized for hopping over very tall obstacles as long as the action is done in a calm manner. If a rider declares to the judge that it is safer for them to jump the obstacle, no penalty will be given. However, when choosing to jump, it needs to be done in a safe manner for both Horse and rider.

Bridge: The Horse should step up, walk across, and step off quietly. No penalty is given for hesitating to acknowledge the obstacle.

Gate: Depending upon the type and position of gate, rider will decide whether gate should be a push/pull or left/right hand gate.

Drag: Rider may hold rope or dally once. There is to be no tying hard and fast. At no time should the rider or Horse get tangled in the rope. Horse should stand quietly during preparation and then pull or drag in control.

Stationary Obstacles: These are such things as slickers, balloons, map, trash, etc. Horse may acknowledge obstacle, and rider is to maintain control.

JUDGES:

Judges for the Trail Challenge Course must be a knowledgeable horseman/horsewoman. Under the Trail Challenge Program, a judge must have the ability to evaluate horsemanship skills, such as a rider's skill of controlling and maintaining the Horse. Additionally, the judge should be familiar with the natural movement of a Horse. Holding any special judging card from AQHA or any other organization is not required, but these credentials should be taken into consideration.

The number of judges needed depends on the Course, the number of obstacles and the availability in the area for qualified judges. Depending on the Course, usually one (1) to three (3) judges are needed. Most Courses tend to dictate the need for more than one (1) judge, due to time constraints and topography. The designation of a senior judge will apply to the appropriate judge, if there is more than one (1) judge.

A Rider meeting must be held before each Trail Challenge starts: (1) to introduce the judge(s); (2) to give a description of the Course; (3) to describe how the Course will be judged; and (4) to answer any questions riders might have before beginning the Course.

ATTIRE & TACK:

Attire should be presentable, clean and free from torn or frayed items. Boots with a closed toe and heel are required. Splint boots are allowed in the Trail Challenge Program unless the judge determines it is unsafe because of terrain or obstacle.

The senior judge or event management shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his/her opinion, would tend to give a Horse an unfair advantage or which he/she believes to be inhumane.

Riders must use a saddle and headgear with attached reins. The type of saddle, headgear with reins, and other equipment is at the discretion of the rider except for illegal equipment as defined within AQHA rules. No inhumane method of restraint is to be used.

No rider will be allowed to ride double or bareback.

DIVISIONS: The following divisions will be recognized by AQHA:

All Breed Challenge Class – (applies to all breeds of Horse and mule)

No official merits will be given to any Horse in this class. There will still be a first through tenth placing at each Trail Challenge Program event. Additionally, the Trail Challenge Coordinator will have to report the Placing on an official TCP Reporting Sheet. All Breed Challenge Class will include a youth and adult division along with the different levels of competition listed below.

For any consideration of merits in the next divisions, rider must present official registration certificate for each American Quarter Horse competing in any class(s). Additionally, the rider must show proof of current membership for American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) or American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA) and alliance organization, if applicable. A rider may sign up for AQHA or AQHYA membership at the registration desk. Any rider, who falsifies registration certificate or membership requirement will be disqualified and may be subject to suspension under AQHA rules.

Youth Quarter Horse Class – (applies to participants (6-18) – minimum age to compete will be 6 years of age). Helmets are necessary when required by state and/or local ordinance. A youth cannot exhibit a stallion.

Adult Quarter Horse Class – (applies to participants 18 and older)

Level 1 –Training Level: this is considered a new Partnership. The rider and Horse may not have established trust or are unsure about each team member’s ability to negotiate simple obstacles. Obstacles should be easy to explain to the team: basic maneuver or technique needed to complete the obstacle.

Level 2 –Intermediate Level: this is considered an established Partnership. The rider and Horse are familiar with one another, exhibit trust when negotiating obstacles and are conditioned to ride a longer Course.

Level 3 –Master Level: this is considered a Partnership where Horse and rider have established trust, can negotiate difficult obstacles and are conditioned to travel a longer Course.

Equestrians with Disabilities

Allowances for riders with permanent physical or mental disabilities are permissible. Example: A rider with cancer cannot pull him/herself up to mount, and therefore can be allowed to use a mounting block without penalty. A rider with a temporary or permanent disability must advise the senior judge during the riders’ meeting.

This rule does not apply to person(s) with a temporary cast, etc. which is not considered a disability and will be up to the property owner, Trail Challenge coordinator, senior judge and/or AQHA management as to whether this person can compete. Final say will be based on the senior judge, and that decision will be final without recourse of any nature.

SCORING:

Scoring is based on the Partnership's ability to navigate the Course. Each Partnership starts with a value of 70 and earns values in a (+) or (-) system throughout the Course. The score sheet is available on part 2 of the guidebook. First through fifth place ribbons are given in each class in each division. Additional awards will be at the discretion of the event coordinator. The Partnership with the highest overall value is named 1st. All scored classes score sheets are to be posted at the end of the event. The original score sheets are to be sent into AQHA immediately following the event.

Each obstacle should have different degrees of difficulty and have an overall value for completion of the obstacle. Riders are encouraged to attempt an obstacle.

The classes are judged on how the Partnership works together. This working unit should negotiate obstacles with calmness and patience, moving safely through each obstacle. Horses should be aware, attentive and not spook, shy or spin as well as not be unaware and clip, stumble or tick obstacles. The Partnership should demonstrate the capability of picking its way through the Course when obstacles warrant it and should willingly respond to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

Emphasis is on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Horses should be relaxed and not display resistance. When completing the Course, the Horse should not be overly exhausted. Credit will be considered when a Partnership negotiates the obstacle with style and rate of progress, providing correctness is not sacrificed.

Obstacle Quality Scores: -3 Deficient, -2^{1/2} Unsatisfactory, -2 Extremely Poor, -1^{1/2} Extremely Poor, -1 Poor, -1/2 Inadequate, 0 Correct, +1/2 Adequate, +1 Good, +1^{1/2} Very Good, +2 Very Good, +2^{1/2} Exceptional, +3 Superior

Penalties to be given as they occur:

Penalty 1/2: Each tick of log, pole, cone plant or any component of the obstacle

Penalty 1: Hit or step on • Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less • Both feet in space • Skipping space or failing to step into required space • Split pole in lope over • 1 step on dismount or ground-tie (except shifting to balance)

Penalty 3: Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or more • Out of lead or break of gait at lope • Knockdown • Stepping outside of the confines of, jumping off or out of obstacle with one foot, once the foot had entered obstacle • Including missing one element of obstacle on line of travel with one foot • 2-3 steps on dismount or ground-tie

Penalty 5: Dropping slicker or object • First or second cumulative refusal, balk or evade • Letting go of gate • Use of hand to instill fear or praise • Stepping outside the confines of, jumping off or out of obstacle with more than one foot, once the foot has entered obstacle • Including missing one element of obstacle on line of travel with more than one foot • Blatant disobedience • 4 or more steps on dismount or ground-tie • Holding onto saddle, except to mount and dismount • Performing obstacles incorrectly or other

than in specified order • Riding outside boundary marker of arena or Course area • Failure to ever show correct gait between obstacles as designated

Penalty 15: No attempt to perform an obstacle (Note: This would also come with a -3 obstacle quality score)

Disqualification Fall of horse and/or rider • Equipment failure • 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 • Unsportsmanlike conduct or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, or abusive is prohibited

Tie breaker: If more than one (1) judge, the senior judge will designate an obstacle as the “tie breaker obstacle”. A second and third “tie breaker obstacle” will be chosen and used only if the first tie breaker obstacle does not break the participants’ tied score. These will be designated before the competition commences. The participants will not know which obstacles are designated tie breakers. If timing obstacles, use common sense. Do not sacrifice the correctness or the solidarity of the Partnership for speed. However, the Partnership should also work in a timely manner.

Any rider who does not complete all obstacles cannot place above a rider who does.

Once AQHA receives the placing results, AQHA will post TCM on the Horse’s permanent record at AQHA.

Trail Challenge score sheet is available in part 2 as well as online at aqha.com/riding

HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM

AQHA's Horseback Riding Program (HBR), sponsored by SmartPak and Professional's Choice, is designed to reward AQHA and AQHYA members who spend time riding American Quarter Horses and all other breeds of horses. Members who participate in HBR have the opportunity to log double hours at every AQHA Trail Ride or Trail Challenge. Members have the option to join the American Quarter Horse HBR program, the All-Breeds or both. Unregistered quarter horses may count towards an All-Breeds HBR enrollment.

The AQHA Horseback Riding Program is easy to join:

- Must maintain AQHA, AQHYA or Amateur membership.
- One-time \$35 enrollment fee. Log hours riding or pleasure driving American Quarter Horses on official log sheets.
- May ride more than one American Quarter Horse; rider does not have to own the horse.
- The horse(s) must be registered with AQHA. The registered name and registration number of the horse must be listed on the log sheet. (only applicable to Quarter Horse program)
- Separate log sheets must be used for each horse, and a minimum of one log sheet must be submitted annually to maintain enrollment in the program.
- Please remember that the deadline to turn in your hourly log sheets is December 31 of the current year.
- One AQHA membership is equal to one enrollment. If both members of a joint account would like to participate in the Horseback Riding Program, one of the two will need a separate membership.

AQHA reserves the right to make any changes in the awards that are given. Awards are not retroactive. Some award item patterns and colors may vary.

AQHA GENERAL RECREATIONAL EVENT RULES

1. Each Participant must sign a Registration/Release Form before they can participate.
2. Youth under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a Registration/Release Form.
3. No consumption of alcohol beverages by Participants riding horses at the events within a reasonable period of time prior to commencement of or during the event; Anyone found under the influence of alcohol, drugs, etc. will be immediately removed from participation and accompanied back to the place the event originated;
4. 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;
5. Unsportsmanlike conduct or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening or abusive is prohibited;
6. No unsound horses will be allowed to participate on the Trail Ride or in the Challenge;
7. No dogs allowed on the actual Trail Ride or Challenge course;
8. Participants must stay on designated trail course;
9. No firearms, fireworks or noisemakers allowed;
10. No smoking on the trail course;
11. An adult must accompany children under the age of 15;
12. Minimum age of an event participant riding a horse is 6 years old;
13. No Participants should be allowed to pass the trail boss;
14. Participants should ride in an orderly and safe manner;
15. Participants may not ride double or without saddles;
15. A red ribbon should be attached to the tail of a kicking horse to warn other participants of potential danger;
16. No littering;
17. No loose horses;
18. No horses within 60 feet of registration and meal/entertainment area;

19. General public should not be allowed to mingle with horses;

20. Stallions are permitted to participate in AQHA Trail Challenges ***but not in AQHA Trail Rides***. Only adults may ride a stallion in AQHA Trail Challenges. If an AQHA Trail Challenge is held in conjunction with an AQHA Trail Ride, stallions are not permitted to attend; and

21. Horses must be 3 years of age to participate in ***AQHA Trail Challenges***.

APPROVAL PROCESS/APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO A RECREATION EVENT:

The Recreational Event Applications must be received by AQHA at least ninety (90) days before the event date. There must be a separate application completed for each event to be considered for AQHA's approval. If you are applying for both a Trail Ride and Trail Challenge event at the same time you will be required to pay for both fees. The following items must accompany each application packet:

- Recreational Coordinator Agreement – **Form B**
- Recreational Event Application – **Form A**
- \$50 Trail Ride and/or Challenge Fee, or \$100 to host events in conjunction (checks should be made payable to AQHA)

REPORTING PROCEDURE AFTER COMPLETION OF A RECREATIONAL EVENT

Within ten (10) days following the completion of the event, the following items must be returned to AQHA at the following address: **AQHA, C/O Recreational Department, 1600 Quarter Horse Drive, Amarillo, Texas, 79104:**

- All participant Registration/Release Forms – **Form C**
- Insurance Fee Reporting Form and requisite fees – **Form D**
- Any unused goody bag items / promotional items
- Only if the event is an AQHA Trail Challenge, return the following items within 10 days:
 - o Trail Challenge Final Reporting Sheet – **Form F**(results should also be posted after the event for all to see the final standings).
 - o Original Trail Challenge Placing Score Sheets

Reporting Incidents. In case of an incident at a Recreational Event, please notify AQHA Manager of Recreational Activities and Ranching Programs the first business day after the Event. A Recreational Event Incident Form is attached as **Form E.**



Recreational Event Guidebook

Part 2: Forms

All AQHA Recreational Event forms are available online at aqha.com

Form A

AQHA-SANCTIONED RECREATIONAL EVENT APPLICATION

For EACH event, the following items must be completed and returned to AQHA at least 90 days prior to the event:

- Signed Event Coordinator Agreement—Form B
- Completed Recreational Event Application—Form A (this form)
- All appropriate Fees (please make checks payable to AQHA or Complete the Credit Card form)

Submit the above items to: AQHA, C/O Recreational Dept., 1600 Quarter Horse Dr., Amarillo, TX, 79104

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
RIDE
PROGRAM

- AQHA Trail Ride \$50
- AQHA Trail Challenge \$50
- AQHA Trail Ride and Trail Challenge \$100

Check type of AQHA-sanctioned Event requested



Event Name (and website if applicable): _____

Event Site and exact address: _____

Site Owner's Contact Information:

Address City State/Province Postal Code Country

Preferred Daytime Phone#: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Event Start Date: _____ Event End Date: _____

Host Organization: _____

Name of Event Coordinator: _____

Event Coordinator's AQHA Member # (must be a current AQHA member in good standing): _____

Event Coordinator Contact Information:

Address City State/Province Postal Code Country

Preferred Daytime Phone#: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name, age, equine experience of Event Coordinator and other individuals who will take an active part in the implementation of the Recreational Event (trail masters/bosses, assistant ride coordinators, etc.):

Name of Alternative Contact for Recreational Event: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Event Description:

Participant Entry Fee(s): _____

Estimated Number of Riders: _____

Additional Options and Associated Fee(s) (e.g., camping fees): _____

Background Information of Event Location (e.g., Palo Duro Canyon is 2nd largest canyon, etc.):

Schedule (e.g., check-in time, meals, activities, etc.): _____

Trail Details or Trail Challenge Obstacle layout (Include photos of obstacles course if possible:

Additional Activities (e.g. local attractions, climbing, etc.): _____

Facilities Available (e.g., RV hook-ups, showers, restrooms, portable restrooms, water for horses, or trailer tie-up permitted): _____

Additional Amenities: _____

Stalls Available / Fee: _____

Event Coordinator Agreement

Should AQHA approve Ride Coordinator's proposed Recreational Event, the Event Coordinator, by signing below agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. **Recreational Event.** This Agreement applies to the Trail Ride or Challenge identified in the Recreational Event Application (**Form A**). The Event Coordinator must be a current member of AQHA in good standing and be age 18 or older.
2. **Site Selection.** Selecting a site is one of the most fundamental parts of hosting a successful trail ride event. By offering a location not normally accessible to recreational riders, an Event Coordinator has already captured their interest. When choosing a location open to the general public, Event Coordinator should add activities that will spark participants' interest to attend the event. Other points to consider in selecting the ideal location:
 - Number of riders and horses the facility will accommodate
 - Proximity to airports, medical facilities and media outlets (usually no more than an hour's drive)
 - Non-public land (e.g. private ranches), which will attract participants
 - Various levels of terrain as to attract all levels of riders
 - Number of restrooms, campground spaces, RV hook-ups and room for portable facilities
 - Plenty of water at the parking area and on the trail for horses and riders
 - Roads accessible by most truck/trailer combinations and all emergency vehicles
 - Sufficient amount of parking for the size of Ride Event being conducted
 - Adjacent areas for registration, meals and entertainment
 - Shelter from inclement weather

It is important that the Event Coordinator distribute accurate and current information about the Recreational Event. As with any recreational activity, many participants plan their vacation months in advance. There are different ways for people to obtain details about the Recreational Event including the ability of interested participants to contact AQHA or an AQHA Affiliate that has information about the event.

Each Event Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the Recreational Event Application (**Form A**) is completed in a timely matter and returned to AQHA as soon as possible. In order to better serve the Event Coordinator, this form needs to be updated immediately when the Event Coordinator makes changes or additions to the event. Without complete and accurate

information, the hotline operators cannot assist the Event Coordinator in distributing information to interested participants.

3. Event Coordinator's Obligations. Ride Coordinator agrees to the following:

(a) Request to Conduct Recreational Event. Event Coordinator agrees to submit a properly completed Recreational Event Application (**Form A**) to AQHA at least 90 days prior to the Recreational Event. AQHA, at its sole discretion and review of the circumstances, may waive the above mentioned 90 day prior notice requirement.

(b) Approval to Conduct Recreational Event. Approval of Event Coordinator to conduct Trail Rides is a privilege, not a right, granted or rejected at AQHA's discretion on an annual basis according to continuous evaluation of the Event Coordinator, including but not limited to Event Coordinator's (1) competence and experience in conducting Recreational Event, (2) adherence to applicable Recreational Event rules, regulations and guidelines ("Recreational Event Rules") and (3) service to AQHA members. AQHA will notify Event Coordinator whether or not AQHA has approved Event Coordinator's proposed Recreational Event.

(c) Registration / Participant Forms. PRIOR TO A Recreational Event, Ride Coordinator agrees to require **ALL** Recreational Event participants to sign the AQHA Recreational Event Program Registration Form, Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement ("Registration/Release Form") and any other documents AQHA deems necessary or convenient for the implementation of Recreational Event. For the purposes of this section, the term Recreational Event participants include individuals who attend a Recreational Event **whether or not they actually participate by riding a horse.**

The Registration/Release Form to be used by Event Coordinator is attached as **Form C**. Such documents shall be returned to AQHA within ten (10) days of the completion of a Trail Ride. Failure to comply with this rule may result in AQHA disciplinary action, AQHA's decision to not approve future ride events, and/or fines for each day the forms are not received by AQHA.

(d) Registration Fees / Schedule / Other Information. Registration fee(s) will be determined by the Event Coordinator. Sign up time, starting and finishing times, and extra activities and other pertinent information will be posted on AQHA's Web site at Event Coordinator's reasonable requests.

(e) Federal, Provincial, State and Local Laws. Event Coordinator agrees to research and abide by applicable federal, provincial, state and/or local laws applicable to the Recreational Event (e.g. laws, if any, requiring evidence of current negative Coggins, brand inspections, health papers, etc...). Event Coordinator also agrees to research and abide by applicable property owner rules applicable to the Recreational Event. Event Coordinator shall post such laws and

rules at the registration area and stalling area and is encouraged to invite local law enforcement to participate.

Furthermore, Event Coordinator agrees to research and implement procedures which will afford Event Coordinator the full legal benefit of equine activity liability legislation/laws, if any, which exist in the jurisdiction in which the Recreational Event will be conducted (*e.g.* requiring participants to sign waivers containing specific language, posting of signs and equine liability laws containing legal disclaimers at the facility registration area and stalling area, etc...).

(f) Selection and Supervision. Event Coordinator warrants and represents he/she will use reasonable diligence in the furtherance of his/her responsibilities under this Agreement and the implementation of the Recreational Event, including, but not limited to:

(i) selection of responsible personnel to serve as trail masters/trail bosses and other assistants during the Trail Rides; *Only applicable to Trail Ride

(ii) screening participants for adequate riding skills and maintaining control and supervision over them to preserve safety; and

(iii) performing the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Recreational Event Rules.

(g) Event Coordinator. Unless waived by AQHA, Event Coordinator agrees that any Recreational Event conducted by Event Coordinator shall be attended and supervised by the Event Coordinator.

(h) General Rules. In exercising reasonable diligence in adhering to the Recreational Event Rules, Event Coordinator agrees to implement and enforce the General Rules attached at a Trail Ride and post such rules at the event.

(i) Animal Welfare. Event Coordinator must refer to AQHA Rules contained in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules & Regulations regarding humane treatment of horses. Any type of inhumane treatment to a horse, including, but not limited to, excessive spurring or whipping or excessive jerking of the reins should not be tolerated at Trail Rides or Trail Challenge.

(j) Unsound Horses. No unsound horses will be allowed to ride on a Trail Ride or participate in a Trail Challenge. If a veterinarian is on-site, he/she may evaluate the horse to determine whether it can physically or mentally compete. The Event Coordinator, Recreation Event Host, AQHA Recreational Advisor, and/or AQHA management have the authority to make the final decision regarding whether a horse is physically or mentally capable of competing.

(k) Veterinarian / EMT. It is not a requirement to have a veterinarian on-site, but the Event Coordinator must have one on-call. The telephone number should be posted at the registration desk, and each trail boss should have the number. Additionally, an EMT is not

required on-site, but one must be on-call. It is the responsibility of the Event Coordinator to make sure EMT and veterinarian(s) are notified of the event date and time.

- (l) Reporting Incidents.** In case of an incident at the event, Event Coordinator must notify AQHA Manager of Recreational Activities and Ranching Programs the first business day after the Recreational Event. An Incident Reporting Form is attached as **Form E**. This form needs to be filled out immediately and sent along with the Registration/Release Form previously completed by the individual involved in the incident to AQHA Manager of Recreational Activities and Ranching Programs. AQHA will then forward all the information to the appropriate parties.
- (m) Drug / Tail Testing.** Event Coordinator agrees to cooperate fully with the AQHA representative, or any organization approved by AQHA, in conducting drug or altered tail testing at a Recreational Event. If notified by an AQHA representative, or any organization approved by AQHA, that testing is to be conducted at a Recreational Event, event management will provide a minimum of three adjoining stalls in a location near the trail head. There will be no charge for these stalls.
- (n) Promotion.** Event Coordinator will promote Recreational Events with dignity, good taste, and in keeping with the reputation and image of AQHA. All promotional efforts by Event Coordinator shall be completed in a highly professional manner to portray the Recreational Event as a premier equine activity. All promotional activities to be conducted by Event Coordinator under this Agreement will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner and in accordance with all applicable and material local, state, federal and provincial laws and regulations.
- (o) Promotion of AQHA Corporate Partners.** Ride Coordinator will use reasonable diligence to assist AQHA in the promotion of any of AQHA's corporate partners which are assisting monetarily in AQHA's Recreational Event Programs. Such assistance includes but is not limited to the display at Recreational Event of AQHA Corporate Partner banners, logos and other promotional/informational items as AQHA requests.

(p) AQHA Corporate Partners / Sponsors of Trail Rides and Challenges

- (i) B&W Hitches.** With respect to AQHA Trail Challenges —not AQHA Trail Rides —AQHA has granted official sponsorship status to B&W Hitches. Accordingly, Event Coordinator agrees not to allow any sponsor whose products conflict with B&W Hitches to sponsor and/or be associated with an AQHA Recreational Event.

Trail Challenge coordinators will offer the following sponsor benefits to B&W Hitches at an AQHA sanctioned Trail Challenge

- Display a minimum of one B&W banner for duration of the event, and be in a prominent location. Banner to be provided by AQHA;

- Incorporate a B&W PSA into any announcer scripts; printed by AQHA

(ii) Local Dealers of AQHA Corporate Partners. Dealers of products for the below listed AQHA Corporate Partners may be contacted for local sponsorship of a Recreational Event. Subject to Section 3.(p)(iii) below, such dealers must be given the first right of refusal to co-sponsor a Recreational Event before dealers of products that conflict with AQHA Corporate Partner products (“Conflicting Dealers”) are allowed to co-sponsor a Recreational Event.

AQHA Corporate Partners include: AQHA Medical, B&W Hitches, Bank of America, Adequan, Double J Saddlery, Farnam, Ford Motor Company, John Deere, Justin Boots, Liberty Mutual, Markel Insurance, Merial, Montana Silversmiths, Nutrena, OfficeMax, Professional’s Choice, Sherwin Williams, SmartPak, US Rider, WeatherBeeta, Wrangler and Zoetis.

(iii) Conflicting Dealers. Event Coordinator agrees to obtain AQHA’s prior written approval before allowing a Conflicting Dealer to co-sponsor a Recreational Event. If AQHA authorizes Event Coordinator to allow a Conflicting Dealer to be associated with and/or sponsor a Recreational Event, Ride Coordinator shall refrain from allowing the Conflicting Dealer’s promotional material at the Recreational Event to be more prominent or in larger case print than the presentation of promotional material of AQHA Corporate Partners.

(iv) Other Sponsors. Event Coordinator further agrees to refrain from allowing a third party whose image, objectives, or reputation detracts from the image of AQHA and/or the Affiliate to be associated and/or sponsor a Recreational Event. AQHA shall have the privilege of prior written approval of each of Event Coordinator’s proposed sponsors and the format/content of such sponsor’s promotional material to be distributed and/or displayed at the Recreational Event.

- 4. Default.** Upon default by Event Coordinator of the responsibilities and conditions contained herein, AQHA may, upon written or oral notification of such default, terminate the authority granted herein unless the default is cured to AQHA’s satisfaction within the time frame specified by AQHA. Upon termination of such authority, Event Coordinator will immediately: (1) remove (a) all AQHA and AQHA corporate partner logos/promotional material and (b) references to AQHA and AQHA corporate partners as being connected in any manner to the Recreational Event and (2) inform all participants that AQHA’s sanction of the Recreational Event has been revoked.
- 5. Revocation of Sanction by AQHA.** AQHA may revoke its sanction of a Recreational Event if the Event Coordinator engages in activity detrimental to the interest of AQHA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members. Furthermore, AQHA, at any time, reserves the right to revoke its sanction of a Recreational Event if AQHA determines that the AQHA Recreational Event Programs should be discontinued in the best interests of AQHA. In

the event AQHA revokes its sanction of the Recreational Event pursuant to this section, Event Coordinator agree to immediately: (1) remove (a) all AQHA and AQHA corporate partner logos/promotional material and (b) references to AQHA and AQHA corporate partners as being connected in any manner to a Recreational Event and (2) inform all participants that AQHA's sanction of a Recreational Event has been revoked.

6. Insurance.

- (a)** The Event Coordinator is responsible for collecting and remitting to AQHA \$3.25 per participant in consideration of AQHA obtaining accident, medical, death and dismemberment coverage for participants ("Participant Accident/Medical Insurance").
- (b)** Such Participant Accident/Medical Insurance: (1) covers only in excess of any other valid and collectible insurance (including, but not limited to a participant's personal insurance policies); (2) does not cover an individual's horse or personal property; and (3) is limited to \$10,000 in coverage.
- (c)** Additional insured's may be added to certain AQHA policies. However, the addition of an additional insured to an AQHA policy is subject to: (1) the Event Coordinator submitting a written request for same; (2) AQHA's insurance carrier's approval and exceptions, if any, to the requested coverage; and (3) AQHA's written approval. Examples of additional insureds include land owner(s) or sponsor(s) of the event.
- (d)** Upon written request, proof of insurance will be provided to the Event Coordinator Host in the form of a Standard Certificate of Insurance. Please allow at least 20 days for AQHA to process a request for a Standard Certificate of Insurance.
- (e)** By undertaking to provide the benefit described above, AQHA is not assuming control or legal responsibility for the management of the Recreational Event activities, Event Coordinator' actions or inactions in conducting the Trail Rides or Trail Ride participants' actions or inactions.

7. Independent Contractor. Event Coordinator understands and agrees that AQHA and its Corporate Partners sponsoring the Recreational Event are neither the insurers nor the guarantors of the safety of the Recreational Event activities and do not assume responsibility for the safety of participants, volunteers, or any other persons engaged in the implementation of the Recreational Event activities or of any third persons, including spectators. In the implementation of the Recreational Event activities, the Event Coordinator is an independent contractor, free from routine control or supervision by either AQHA or any of AQHA's Corporate Partners sponsoring the Recreational Event.

8. Disclaimer of Responsibility for Participant Safety. AQHA does not assume responsibility for the safety of participants. As an express condition for granting AQHA's approval of this recreational event, the Event Coordinator accepts full responsibility for condition of the trail premises,

including trailhead, exercise area, spectator sections; the conduct and competence of trail personnel, recreational advisor and other representatives; implementation of recreational activities and events; and all other aspects of this recreational event.

9. **Notices.** All notices, consents, requests and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sent by hand delivery, by certified or registered mail (return receipt requested), or via express mail as set forth below:

If to Ride Coordinator: To the address specified in **Form A**

If to AQHA: American Quarter Horse Association
Attn: Recreational Programs
1600 Quarter Horse Drive
Amarillo, Texas 79104
Phone: 806-378-4377
Fax: 806-349-6409
E-mail: jboggs@aqha.org

10. **Choice of Law.** This Agreement shall be construed under the laws of the State of Texas. The Parties agree to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts located in Potter County, Texas.
11. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.
12. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all negotiations, representations, warranties, commitments, offers, contracts and writings executed prior to the date hereof. This Agreement may be altered, amended, or modified only by a writing signed by the persons authorized to sign agreements on behalf of AQHA and Event Coordinator.
13. **Assignment.** This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and their successors and assigns; however, it may not be assigned by either Party without the prior written consent of the other.
14. **Severability.** If any provision of this Agreement shall be held void, voidable, invalid or inoperative, no other provision of this Agreement shall be affected as a result thereof, and, accordingly, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as though such void, voidable, invalid or inoperative provision had not been contained herein.
15. **Appendixes.** All Appendixes described in this Agreement shall be deemed to be incorporated in and made a part of this Agreement, except that if there is any inconsistency between this Agreement and the provisions of any Appendix, the provisions of this Agreement shall control.

Terms used in an Appendix and also used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning in the exhibit as in this Agreement.

AGREED:

EVENT COORDINATOR:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

AQHA RECREATIONAL EVENTS PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Participant Information:

Name: _____ AQHA Member ID: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Event Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

IMPORTANT, PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT

As a condition of participation in AQHA's Recreational Events Program ("Program"), and in consideration of being allowed to participate, the Participant, together with his/her parents or guardian if under the age of 18 years (collectively "Participant"), does hereby:

1. AGREE to obey all rules of the Program and the directions of the Program coordinators, trail masters and other representatives of the AQHA Affiliate and/or organization conducting the Program.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that Participant understands the nature of the Program Activities ("Activities") and that the Participant is qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activities;

3. FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACTIVITIES INVOLVE "INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES" THAT MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE AND BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH (collectively "RISKS"); that such RISKS may be caused by Participant's own action or inaction, the action or inaction of others participating in the Activities, the condition of the premises at which the Activities take place, and/or **THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW;**

4. UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that "Inherent risk of equine activities" means dangers or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (a) the propensity of a horse to behave in ways that may result in injury, death, or loss to persons on or around the horse; (b) the unpredictability of a horse's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals; (c) hazards, including, but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions; (d) a collision with another horse, another animal, a person, or an object; and (e) the potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury, death, or loss to the person of the Participant or to other persons, including but not limited to, failing to maintain control over a horse or failing to act within the ability of the Participant;

5. FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES PARTICIPANT INCURS AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES;

6. WARRANT AND REPRESENT that, if the Activities involve horses, Participant is adequately qualified and experienced to both (a) safely handle and ride a horse in a manner to protect Participant and other third parties, and (b) participate with groups of riders and horses, such as to take adequate defensive action to avoid injury from third party participants and horses. Furthermore, Participant understands that it is Participant's responsibility to ascertain the adequacy of Participant's training and experience, the adequacy and training of Participant's horse, and for Participant to conduct himself/herself in a manner such as to make the Activities safe and enjoyable for all participants;

7. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE AQHA, AQHF, AQHA AFFILIATES, AQHA CORPORATE PARTNERS AND/OR THE THIRD PARTY THAT PROVIDED THE HORSES FOR THE EVENT OR THEIR RESPECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNER AND LESSORS OF PREMISES ON WHICH THE ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE, (EACH CONSIDERED ONE OF THE "RELEASEES" HEREIN) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES WHENEVER OR HOWEVER ARISING AS TO INJURY, DEATH AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OR CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

8. AGREE to indemnify, hold harmless and defend RELEASEES from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, from all third party claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses of any nature arising out of (a) Participant's negligent act(s) or omissions during or related in any way to the Activities; and/or (b) Participant's willful act(s) or omission(s) during or related in any way to the Activities; and/or (c) any misinformation or misrepresentations made by Participant in this Agreement. Participant agrees to pay any of RELEASEES' costs, expenses and reasonable attorney fees incurred, arising directly or indirectly out of or with respect to any third party claims or associated with the enforcement of the indemnity obligations referenced above.

9. AGREE, in consideration of being allowed to participate and without further consideration, that AQHA, AQHA Affiliates and the American Quarter Horse Foundation may use any video, photograph or other form of likeness or image of Participant and horses owned or ridden by Participant to promote AQHA's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from AQHA.

10. UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that AQHA Corporate Partners have contributed to the funding of the Program, but have no actual control over any aspect of implementation of Program Activities; and that AQHA has no actual control or supervision of the Program Activities in selection of the Program site, selection of activities master, screening of participants, nor control and supervision of the Activities or availability of medical services.

11. UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that AQHA, AQHA Affiliates and AQHA Corporate Partners sponsoring the Program and Activities, are neither the insurers nor the guarantors of safety of the Activities.

12. AGREE that this Assumption of Risk/Release of Liability/Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement") (a) shall bind me, my family, my heirs, legal representatives, successors and assigns; (b) shall be governed

by the laws of the State of Texas; and (c) shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts located in Potter County, Texas.

PARTICIPANT HAS READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS TERMS, UNDERSTANDS THAT PARTICIPANT IS GIVING UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAS SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTENDS IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE VOID, VOIDABLE, INVALID OR INOPERATIVE, THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS THOUGH SUCH VOID, VOIDABLE, INVALID OR INOPERATIVE PROVISION HAD NOT BEEN CONTAINED HEREIN.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (REQUIRED if Participant is under the age of 18):

AQHA RECREATIONAL EVENT INSURANCE REPORTING FORM

Date of Event: _____

Event Name: _____

Event Location: _____

Event Type: _____ AQHA Trail Ride _____ AQHA Trail Challenge (select all that apply)

Host Organization: _____

Event Coordinator: _____ AQHA ID# _____

TOTAL # of RIDERS: _____

Of riders X \$3.25 per rider = _____

TOTAL FEES INCLUDED IN FINAL REPORT: _____

Signature of Event Coordinator Date

AQHA – RECREATIONAL EVENT INCIDENT FORM*

NAME & DATE OF EVENT: _____

NAME OF PERSON INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHERE DID THE ACCIDENT OCCUR? _____

WERE THERE ANY WITNESSES? YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE LIST THE NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE WITNESS (ES).

DID THE PERSON GO TO THE HOSPITAL OR MINOR EMERGENCY CLINIC? YES NO

IF YES, THE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE HOSPITAL OR MINOR EMERGENCY CLINIC:

DOES THE PERSON HAVE PRIVATE INSURANCE? YES NO

SIGNED WAIVER / REGISTRATION FORM YES NO

NAME OF HOST: _____

EVENT COORDINATOR SIGNATURE: _____

**Return this form immediately to AQHA*