



National Western Horseman's Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

[For a full schedule, rules, fees and more information, please download the 2019 Horse Show Premium Book.](#)

What is the National Western Horseman's Challenge?

The National Western Horseman's Challenge is an event created to involve equestrians of all levels, ages and disciplines in the National Western Stock Show. Debuting in January 2018, this event spans three days of fun, challenging tasks for you and your horse. It involves both practice time and competitions. For more detailed information refer to page 33 of the 2019 Horse Show Premium Book.

When is the National Western Horseman's Challenge?

This event will be held in the Denver Coliseum Monday-Wednesday, January 14-16, 2019.

What kind of tasks and obstacles will be included?

The courses will include trail obstacles like bridges, poles and gates as well as other tasks such as dragging, picking up, going thru or around obstacles. Most obstacles will have a twist or different way to approach or maneuver through them than regular trail classes. The intention is to try something new and maneuver an obstacle differently than what you are accustomed to in order to test your trust and connection with your horses.

How do I prepare for the obstacles and tasks?

There are some open horse parks in Colorado that have various obstacles to practice on. You can also create obstacles at home. Try picking up something horseback or maneuvering through tight quarters or getting on and off or show them something that is not typically seen in their barn or arena. Anything to test you and your horse's connection and abilities.

How do I know if my horse and I are ready to enter?

The obstacles and tasks will vary to accommodate all ages, levels and disciplines and there will be practice time on Monday for you to try it!

How do I enter?

When entries are open go to www.nationalwestern.com/horse-shows/horse-exhibitors/ and fill out an online entry submission to reserve your spot. The events are a la carte options and will be accepted on a first come, first served for 2019.

When do I need to reserve my spot?

Entry reservations are due by Friday, December 14, 2018. Space is limited and entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Do I have to reserve a spot?

Yes, you must reserve a spot. We have limited space and want to ensure you are guaranteed a spot. If space is available, we may accept entries on a first come, first served basis after December 14, 2018.

What are the schooling rounds on Monday?

A course will be set for you to ride at will during your designated schooling round time to test you and your horse's ability on obstacles and tasks.

What are the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced rounds on Monday & Tuesday?

These will be competitive, timed rounds. There will be a set course so you know the order and ways to maneuver obstacles and tasks. There will also be rules which, if broken, will cost you time penalties that will be added to your final time. Competitors will be scored based on how well they complete each maneuver and by how quickly they complete the course.

What is the team competition on Wednesday?

It will be similar to the speed rounds with a fun aspect of a team of four completing the course. Each of the four team members will complete some of the obstacles, contributing to the team's final score and time.

What is the speed challenge on Wednesday?

This fun, fast and exciting final event is the highlight of the week. This course will be similar to the ones on Monday and Tuesday, but with a few challenging surprises. The top five times in the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced divisions will earn the chance to participate in the speed challenge.

Do I have to enter every day?

You can enter any division that is not already full while following the guidelines set forth in the Horse Show Premium Book.

How much does it cost?

Each contestant will purchase an exhibitor badge for \$35, which includes grounds admission for the entire NWSS. Schooling rounds are \$10. The speed rounds are \$15 each. The team competition Wednesday is \$40 a team and the speed challenge will be \$20. Stalls will be available for \$20 a night, which includes a bag of shavings per night.

Do I have to purchase a stall?

No, however trailer parking spots are not guaranteed and stall numbers are limited.

Can I enter more than one horse?

Sure! Space is limited so once entries open, get yours submitted quickly.

Can two people ride one horse?

Yes. Each pair will be their own entry and must compete in a different division.

Are there prizes?

Of course! The first place winners in the speed rounds will win an NWSS award and each team member of the winning team in Wednesday morning's team challenge will receive an NWSS award. Wednesday's speed challenge winner will receive an NWSS award and 100% of the entry fees in that event will be paid back to the top three finishers.