

Trail Obstacle Challenge

At Darby Oaks Stables

The Challenge consists of 15 obstacles such as water crossings, side-pass, tarps, bridges, back through and other interesting obstacles. Horses will be scored on how well they negotiate each one. Best score, calculated as described in the rules, will determine the winner in each division (Youth, Amateur, Green Horse and Pro/Posse).

Three judges will score five obstacles each - time will break ties.

Payback, prizes and ribbons in all divisions!

Open to all horses, mules, donkeys and riders.

Pre-registration suggested.
Event limited to 150 entries, so register early!

SOCA Member Entry Fee:
\$30.00 Per Horse Per Division
Non-SOCA Member Entry Fee:
\$40.00 Per Horse Per Division

\$5.00 Spectator Fee

Bring your own chairs!

Negative Coggins and Signed Liability Releases Required

Helmets required for riders 16 years and younger.

Primitive Camping and Limited Stalls Available for overnight guests.



Hosted by:

**Southern Obstacle
Challenge Association**

WHERE YOU AND
YOUR HORSE CAN
HAVE FUN!



WHEN: Saturday, March 24, 2012
TIME: Registration Opens at 8:30 a.m.
Riders Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Competition Starts at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Darby Oaks Stables
595 County Road 552
Bushnell, FL 33513

Phone - 352-568-2001 or email
southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com



SOCA Trail Obstacle Challenge Entry Form

(one rider & horse/mule/donkey per form)

Rider's Name: _____

Horse/Mule/Donkey Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Alternate Phone (____) _____

Age of Rider: _____ Age of Horse: _____

Circle one category: Youth Amateur Pro/Posse Green Horse
 (17 & Under) (18 & Over) (4 & Under)

Entry Fee: \$30 SOCA Members \$40 Non-Members \$ _____

SOCA Membership (optional) Individual (\$10) \$ _____

Entry fee subtotal (add in membership fee if joining) \$ _____

Camping/Stall Arrival & Departure dates: ____/____ to ____/____

_____ Primitive Campsites @ \$10 each \$ _____

_____ Stalls @ \$20 each \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Entry form and payment should be mailed to:
SOCA, PO Box 1479, Bushnell, FL 33513

CURRENT NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED for all equines to be admitted to Darby Oaks Stables property, no exceptions.

- **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:** After the Challenge, we will refund camping, stalls or entry fees if notice is received before the start of the event.

Release Form

(one must be signed by each participant and mailed with entry)

I understand horseback riding & related activities are very dangerous & involve the risk of serious injury &/or death, &/or property damage, including injury &/or death to horses, spectators & others. I understand that our horse(s), by being on Darby Oaks Stables, Inc. property, may be exposed to harmful bacteria & viruses, & I assume the risk of possible exposure. Attempting obstacles and participating in obstacle challenges can be dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death. Accordingly, I agree any activity engaged in by me while participating in activities with the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association and Darby Oaks Stables will be done at my own risk. Accordingly, I release & agree to hold harmless the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association and Darby Oaks Stables, the lessees, their officers & directors & the owner of the property & any & all persons or entities who are guarantors or indemnitors of the above, all agents, employees, & promoters, sponsors, other riders, horse owners, advertisers, sales persons, photographers, volunteers, (hereinafter called "Releasees") for all liability for negligence or otherwise. I assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, illness, death of myself &/or horse(s), & any other property damage due to the negligence of Releasees or otherwise while on premises or engaged in horseback riding related activities, &/or while training, riding, competing, officiating, observing, teaching, working for, or for any purpose related to horseback riding, eventing or participating as a rider or spectator in such activities. I agree not to sue any Releasees & I release & agree to indemnify Releasees from & for all liability for the undersigned, his/her person, representatives, assignees, heirs, & demands therefore on account of injury to the person, or property or death of the undersigned whether caused by negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. I agree that this Release, Waiver & Indemnity Agreement is intended to be as broad & inclusive as is permitted by the law of this state where these activities are conducted, and if any part hereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full force & effect.

I have read & voluntarily signed the Release & Waiver of Liability & Indemnity Agreement & further agree that no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreements, have been made nor shall be made except by a written and signed Addendum.

WARNING: Under Florida law (Statute 773.04), an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.

Signature of Rider (19 or older) Date Signature of Parent or Guardian (18 & under)

Printed Name of Rider

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

SOCA Trail Obstacle Challenge

Rules & General Information

- EVERY person attending the Challenge (participant or observer) is responsible for knowing & abiding by these rules.
- SAFETY is first and foremost in this event. Please be careful. If your horse gets upset with any obstacle, it is better to pass than to try to force him to do something that will scare him or result in injury to horse or rider.
- Each rider must pick up their own score card at registration. No exceptions. You will not be permitted to access the course and navigate obstacles without an official score card.
- Carry your score card with you on the course. It is each rider's responsibility to present the card to and collect it from each judge. When your last obstacle is scored, that judge will keep your card until it is surrendered to the scoring team. Your card may be picked up after awards are announced.
- It is mandatory that all riders 16 years and younger be helmeted at all times when on horseback on Darby Oaks property. All competitors must wear boots or closed toe shoes.
- The obstacle judges have an obligation to ensure safety. If a judge determines a situation is not safe, their word is **FINAL**. If a judge asks you to not continue with a particular obstacle, you must obey that request and withdraw from the obstacle. **Arguing with the judges is not allowed** and will be grounds for dismissal from the Challenge and perhaps from the property.
- Riding double is NOT allowed on the premises due to liability risk.
- All horses must have some type of bridle, Indian bit or headgear for control and some type of saddle or bare-back pad that has a girth and stirrups. Bareback and bridle-less riding is not allowed.
- Each horse and rider must negotiate obstacles on their own, one at a time, **AT A WALK**. You may not follow another horse through an obstacle.
- Riders **MUST** stay mounted while negotiating an obstacle. A dismount will result in a zero score for that obstacle. [unless dismounting is part of the obstacle]
- Each obstacle has a one-minute (60 second) completion time limit. Please exit when asked, judge will alert you when time is almost up.
- Scoring will be based on a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 being the best and ½ point increments being awarded at the judges discretion:
 - **Score of 5:** Horse moves willingly toward and through the obstacle with relaxed, forward movements. NO hesitation and NO obvious encouragement from the rider.
 - **Score of 4:** Horse moves forward willingly with only one or two slight hesitations. Some subtle encouragement from rider.
 - **Score of 3:** Horse moves forward but is resistant with a stop or two, looking closely at obstacle. Obvious encouragement from rider.
 - **Score of 2:** Horse is resistant and unwilling. Frequent stopping and frequent encouragement from rider.
 - **Score of 1:** Horse is extremely resistant and unwilling, shying at obstacle, backing up or spinning and unwilling to go forward. Gets through the obstacle only with continuous encouragement from rider and continuous use of voice and legs.
 - **Score of 0:** Horse is unable to complete the obstacle.
- There will be three judges for the trail challenge competition, each scoring five obstacles. The riders scores from all three judges will be tallied together for a total score.
- One set of five obstacles will be timed to determine a tie breaker, if there are multiple entries with the same total score.
- Note: In placing divisions; **HORSES THAT COMPLETE ALL THE OBSTACLES WILL BE PLACED AHEAD OF HORSES THAT MISSED ANY OBSTACLES**. For example; if horse A completes all obstacles with a score of 50 and horse B completes only 14 of 15 obstacles with a score of 54, horse A will be placed ahead of horse B.
- **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:** After the Challenge, we will refund camping, stalls

- No horses will be allowed on the course prior to competition.
- The order of go through the course will be determined by a random draw of the Event Committee and will be posted at the entry office on the day of the event. Note: The order of go is not determined by the order entries are received. All entries must be ready to ride the course when called. Management reserves the right to make changes to the order to expedite the challenge.
- All breeds of horses, mules and donkeys may be ridden. Stallions are allowed, but we ask that they be handled in a responsible manner for the safety of the exhibitors and spectators. If any horses are deemed to be difficult and pose a potentially unsafe situation, management may dismiss the competitor from the facility.
- Divisions :
 - Youth - Riders 17 & Under
 - Amateur/Adult - Riders 18 & Over, who are not paid professionals or posse members
 - Green Horse - Horses 4 Years & Under, ridden by youth, amateur or pro/posse
 - Professional/Posse - Any rider that is paid to train or a member of a posse
- A mount may only be entered one time per division, however riders may enter more than one mount. Horses may be entered in multiple divisions with different riders.
- Competitors are warned that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the officials or competition management on the part of the owner or rider will disqualify the horse/mule/donkey from adjudication. The competition management reserves the right to remove the owner or rider from the competition without being liable for compensation or damages. Abuse of horses or humans will not be tolerated!
- Indemnity and Non-responsibility clause: All entries acceptable with the understanding that neither the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association, Darby Oaks Stables, nor its officers, nor any of the sponsors at the competition will be held responsible for any accidents, personal injury or damages done to any owner, horse/mule/donkey, attendant or their equipment that may be lost, stolen, destroyed or in any way damaged at this competition. All riders will be required to sign releases.
- Prizes (Neither SOCA or Darby Oaks Stables guarantee any prizes) :
 - Payback in all divisions will equal 50% of that divisions entry fees with first place = 40%, Second Place = 30%, Third Place = 20%, and Fourth Place = 10%. For example, if there are 20 entries in a division at \$30 per entry. Total collected is \$600 and total payback will be \$300 divided as such: First \$120, Second \$90, Third \$60, Fourth \$30.
 - Prizes for 1st place winners and ribbons for 1st through 6th place
- Directions - Take I-75 to Exit #314 (State Road 48) in Bushnell. Head East on SR 48 to the third traffic light (Hess and CVS on the corners) - Turn right. Go to the second light (CR 476/SR 48) - Turn left. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right at the stop sign (this will be SR 48 again). Take SR 48 one mile and you will see the Darby Oaks Stables sign on the left. Parking will be in the front pasture. If you get lost, feel free to call us at 352-568-2001. Please do not use mapquest or GPS's!!
- Concessions - We will have drinks and snacks available for purchase throughout the day, as well as a BBQ lunch for a limited time.
- Stalls - Stalls are limited - These will be on a first come, first serve basis. Please notify us ahead of time so that we can make arrangements. Cost is \$20 per stall.
- Camping - Primitive camping is available. Those that are self contained are welcome to park your trailer on the property here at Darby Oaks. Cost is \$10.
- Trash - Please clean up after yourself! We will be happy to provide trash bags.
- Dogs - We ask this if you need to bring dogs, please keep them tied to your trailer or crated for the safety of all horses and riders.
- Coggins - Will be checked for all horses entering the competition.
- Fun & Safety -We hope that everyone enjoys a day full of fun, but please keep the safety of you, your horse, and other participants in mind.