Pony Express Legacy & Obstacle Challenge - Info & Ride Rules

Camp fee per site: $60 for 2 nights, $90 for 3 nights or $35 for 1 night & $5 per day for power sites
Reservation Needed: CowboyCampground@gmail.com
Fun show, no show clothes needed, let's cheer and help to show run smoothly, volunteer and consider a sponsorship!

Ride fee per rider/horse combo:	$25 per run,	2nd Run: $20 same horse	Plus $5 day-of-event late fee
Additional horse same rider:	$20		Plus $5 day-of-event late fee
In-Hand Trail:	$20		Plus $5 day-of-event late fee
Challenge Race 3 Person Team Fee:	$60	Think of a unique Team Name! You can always look for team members at the event.	

Are you a LPR member?
Legacy Park Riders Association members receive $5 off each class and can use the membership nights for the event.

No Refund for Weather Conditions, we will reschedule a week later in case of excessive rain/mud and will contact attendees.
Please bring layers, the month of September can have lower temps or rain.
We take Venmo, Check or Cash. Your spot will be secured after receiving full payment - 1st Come, 1st Serve!
If space remains, you can sign up onsite and add classes also. Limited to 20 Riders in each Class & 20 Teams of 3 Riders for the Challenge Race!

There will be NO walk through for any of the obstacle courses, it's called a challenge after all.
Since we don't have a copy machine and the course is set the morning off the challenge, the trail will be shown by an out-rider/handler with a horse that is not competing, before start of each class, with the rider/ judge being available for Q&A.
There will be a pre-ride of the Pony Express course, Sunday morning after breakfast.
Only one pre-ride, unless otherwise noted if we have full classes!

General Show Rules

- Classes will run in order of listing in the event lineup, don't be late, no gate holds, be ready to ride. We do post approx ride times for classes.
- Each entry must be paid before receiving an exhibitor #.
- At-gate entries or scratches are accepted, please let gate personal know, remember to pay for the added classes or no prize. You must already have a #. No Refunds.
- Make sure you are eligible for the class you are entering
- No dress code, think nice and appropriate. Helmets highly encouraged.
- If a competitor has an unscheduled dismount and can continue, they may. No jumps shall be higher than 25".
- Points for time will be awarded.
- Going the wrong way is a DQ, pay attention.
- If a horse is riding in any class, a different handler may show the horse in In-Hand, like a Round Robin challenge.
- Each obstacle will count for 3 to 5 points/seconds off your time.
- For every refusal, judges will subtract a point/seconds from the score sheet.
- Tack and Equipment: No running martingales, tie downs, or cavesons are allowed. Cavesons are allowed if rider is using English tack. No gag bits or mechanical hackamores are allowed. Curbs must be flat chain or flat leather. Crop, whip, over & under is permitted if done with slight contact. Anything deemed as more than light contact will warrant a disqualification. Equine Welfare and Lameness are considered. The judge or host can check equine for evidence of harshness. If either the judge or the host conclude that there was harshness, the rider will not be permitted to compete that day, nor keep the points for the competition when harshness occurred. If the equine is not serviceably sound, then the horse will be considered lame. Lame equine are not allowed to compete.
- Stallions allowed if well behaved, please use a yellow ribbon in the tail for recognization.
- No alcohol may be consumed during the event, per our insurance rules.
- Competitors are to be respectful and positive towards other competitors, staff, hosts, judges, and especially volunteers.
- Please remember that any equine event is a glimpse into the "way of the cowboy", where trust, loyalty, honor, and a hand shake meant something. Honor those traditions put into place by our cowboy ancestors.
- Cheer, assist someone, encourage and make this a great fun, low key event.
- Dogs need to be leashed.

- The decisions made by the show officials and judge(s) are final, no competitor can directly address the judge. All concerns must go to the hosts.

Horse/Rider Individual Trail Course - Speed is of Essence -

- Short Course, taking place at Cowboy Campground arena. The participants in 2025 all agreed to keep the course at Cowboy Campground and not rent the rodeo arena for the following years, unless the event growth more.
- Goal: When riding this event, horse & rider aim for the Fastest Time and Highest Points (time off) for the obstacles.
- Obstacle Challenges are to be ridden on horseback, unless entered into an In-Hand class, if the rider dismounts at any time during the course (except if the challenge asks for it), horse and rider will be disqualified.
- Please chose the correct In-hand class for your horses age, regardless of training status.
- In-Hand trail is walk/trot only for horses under 3 years.
- In-Hand trail for 4 & up will not receive a penalty if slow lope happens.
- Horses are allowed 3 tries per obstacle. After 3 refusals, judges will have you move on.
- Additional tries will be a total DQ if the judge moved you on.

Pony Express Team Race -

- Each horse or rider may ride only 3 times in the race, and each time a different course/leg.
- Three Rider Team Race - Longest Course and three different trails to be ridden, and a couple of obstacles need to be completed for time credits if completed correctly.
- At race time, horse is limited to ride the same course/leg (1,2 or 3) of the course just once with the same or different rider. You need to switch to another course/leg of the course.
- Important to ride the course/leg as shown, or your team will be disqualified.
- Loping on a walk/trot trail area will add 10 second penalty each time for the Pony Express Race.
- The Team Race must be conducted on horseback. If a rider dismounts at any point during the course and then remounts, this is allowed; however, the timer will continue to run.
- When passing the mail bag, if it drops while handing it over, the "delivery rider" has to dismount, retrieve bag, hand it back to the Rider and the riders continues the pony express race.

In-Hand - 3 years & Under (not under saddle yet) Challenge

This timed event offers handlers of all ages and young horses the opportunity to compete. The course consists of several obstacles, which may include carrying an item, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, and more challenging items. **Walk/Trot Only.**

In-Hand - Horse age: 4 years & Up Challenge

This timed event allows handlers of horses aged four and older to compete in addition to riding. The course features several obstacles, which may include carrying an item, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, and more. As the rider, you are not allowed to show your horse, but someone else may handle that for you. **Walk/Trot/Lope** - Oh my.

Leadline Buckaroo (6 & under)

This course features several obstacles that may include dropping balls into buckets, along with easier challenges. Don't forget to ring the bell and deliver the mail!. The course consists of several obstacles, might include dropping balls into buckets, and will be less challenging obstacles. But don't forget the Mail (Ringing the Bell) & to deliver it.
Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag while completing obstacles and Win**! Walk/Trot only**.
Helmets Are Very Encouraged for this class!

Greenhorn Young Buckaroo (17 & under) Trails Obstacle Challenge

This timed event is designed to be less challenging for both riders and horses. The course includes various obstacles, which may involve tasks such as carrying an item, putting on a slicker, side-passing, dropping balls into buckets, dismounting and remounting, backing up, small jumps, and other more challenging obstacles. If you have won in any trail events, you are not eligible to participate in the Greenhorn Youth.
But don't forget the Mail (Ringing the Bell) and to deliver it.

Young Buckaroo (17 & under) & Open Youth Trail Obstacle Challenge

This timed event presents greater challenges for both riders and horses. The course features a variety of obstacles, which may include carrying an item, dragging, putting on a slicker, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, dismounting and remounting, backing up, navigating small jumps, and completing more difficult obstacles and will be more challenging

obstacles. But don't forget the Mail (Ringing the Bell) and to deliver it.
This is a lope class. Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag while completing all obstacles and Win! Helmets Encouraged!

Green Horse - Trail Obstacle Challenge

This timed event is designed to give beginner and inexperienced horses of any age the opportunity to compete at an entry-level standard. This is a great class for a horse entering its first competition, including horses that may have been started under saddle later in life.
A horse is considered a Green Horse if it has competed in no more than 2 previous obstacle course competitions and is still developing its skills, must not have previous placed. Slow lope only.
The course will include several obstacles and may include carrying an item, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, backing, maneuvering through obstacles, and other appropriate Green Horse challenges. There will be no dragging obstacles.
Riders may not dismount during the event.
And don't forget the Pony Express mission, ring the bell and deliver the mail!
Complete all required obstacles and at your horse's comfortable pace, walk/trot or an easy canter. This is a timed event, but control, completion, and a positive experience for the Green Horse come first.
Complete the course, ring that bell, deliver the mail, and see who takes home the win! Green Horse entries may not enter the Cowboss class.

Greenhorn Walk/Trot Only - True Beginner. *May Not Cross Enter into a Lope Class.*

Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag while completing all obstacles and Win**!** Helmets Encouraged!
This timed event provides beginner riders of all ages, along with their horses (any age), the chance to compete at an entry-level standard. A person shall be a considered a Greenhorn who has competed in less than 5 courses or won 1st place in the past.
The course includes several obstacles, which may consist of carrying an item, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, and completing more challenging tasks. Riders must not dismount during the event. Don't forget to ring the bell and deliver the mail!
Be the fastest to ring the bell, while completing all obstacles and short race track (at your own comfortable walk/trot speed) and Win! May only enter the Greenhorn Pony Express Race, designated **Walk/Trot Only**.
May enter the Greenhorn Plus and the Greenhorn Pony Express Race, designated Walk/Trot Only.
If you won a trail challenge in the past, you may not enter this class.

Wrangler Greenhorn Cross-Over Trail Obstacle Challenge

This timed event provides beginner riders of all ages, along with their horses (any age), the chance to compete at an entry-level standard. A person shall be a considered a Greenhorn Cross-Over who has competed in less than 10 courses and is starting to work on lope work. The course includes several obstacles, which may consist of carrying an item, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, and completing more challenging tasks. Riders must not dismount during the event. Don't forget to ring the bell and deliver the mail!
Be the fastest to ring the bell, while completing all obstacles and short race track (at your own comfortable walk/trot speed) and Win! May only enter the Greenhorn Pony Express Race, designated Walk/Trot/Slow Canter allowed, **will not be disqualified for not loping**.

Maverick Trail Obstacle Challenge

This timed event is designed to be more challenging for both riders and horses. The course includes several obstacles such as carrying an item, mounting and dismounting, side passing, putting on a slicker, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, navigating small jumps, holding a flag, dragging an item, and more. Additionally, don't forget to deliver the mail by ringing the bell! Open to any rider that is not getting compensation for training.
Be the fastest to ring the bell, metaphor for the mailbag, while completing all obstacles and Win!
This is a lope class, speed counts.

Cowboss Trail Obstacle Challenge - Open Class
This timed event presents the greatest challenge for both riders and horses and open to trainers and advanced riders. Mavericks are allowed to compete in this one, as well as Green Horses. The course includes several obstacles, which may involve tasks such as carrying an item, mounting and dismounting, side passing, putting on a slicker, dropping balls into buckets, backing up, completing small jumps, holding a flag, and dragging objects. One of the toughest aspects will be to ring the bell and deliver the mail fastest.
The goal is to be the fastest to ring the bell, essentially delivering the mailbag—while successfully completing all obstacles.
Good luck! **This is a lope class, speed counts.**

Pony Express "Legacy" Greenhorn Team Challenge - ***3 Buckles will be awarded - Buckle Sponsor(s):***
This timed event is the most challenging for riders and horses. The course consists of several obstacles, which might include backing, loping, side passing, dropping balls in to buckets and more skilled items and might carrying an object or touching a flag. And riders will ride a pre-defined, marked pony express course. Don't forget the Mail & deliver it. This team event will have 3 separate courses, one mostly speed and agility, one a little slower to keep the trail in tact. The mail has to be passed between the team members at the speed you are comfortable with, remember speed is of the essence. If mail bag gets dropped, the "delivery rider" has to dismount, retrieve bag, hand it back to the Rider & the rider continues the pony express race. Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag, completing all obstacles, the speed trail & Win!Loping will cause a 5 second time penalty each time, DQ if lope is not corrected right away. Youth and Adults can join in. **Walk/Trot Only**.

Pony Express "Legacy" Youth Team Challenge - ***3 Buckles will be awarded - Buckle Sponsor(s):***
This timed event is the most challenging for our young riders and horses. The course consists of several obstacles, which might include backing, loping, side passing, dropping balls in to buckets and more skilled items and might include or toughing a flag. And riders will ride a pre-defined, marked pony express course. Don't forget the Mail & deliver it. This team event will have 3 separate courses, one mostly speed and agility, one a little slower to keep the trail in tact. The mail has to be passed between the team members at the speed you are comfortable with, remember speed is of the essence. If mail bag gets dropped, the "delivery rider" has to dismount, retrieve bag, hand it back to the Rider & the rider continues the pony express race. Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag, completing all obstacles, the speed trail &Win! Good luck! **This is a lope class. Helmets Encouraged!**

Pony Express "Legacy" Team Challenge -
This timed event is one of the most challenging for both riders and horses. The course features several obstacles that may include backing up, loping, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, and other skilled tasks, as well as dragging an object or carrying a flag. Riders will navigate a predefined and marked pony express course, so don't forget to deliver the mail!
This team event consists of three separate courses: one focused on speed and agility, one that is a bit slower to help maintain the trail, and a final course that combines elements of both. Team members must pass the mail between each other at a pace they are comfortable with, but remember—speed is crucial. If a mailbag is dropped, the "delivery rider" must dismount, retrieve the bag, hand it back to the rider, and then continue with the pony express race. Be the fastest to deliver the mailbag, completing all obstacles, the speed trail &Win! Good luck! **This is a lope class.**

Pony Express "Legacy" Jackpot Team Challenge - ***$10 per Rider, bring $$ at start of race time!***
This timed event presents the greatest challenge for both riders and horses. The course features several obstacles, which may include backing, loping, side passing, dropping balls into buckets, and other skilled tasks. It may also require dragging an object or carrying a flag. Riders will navigate a pre-defined, marked pony express course. Remember, it's essential to deliver the mail!
This team event consists of three separate courses: one focused on speed and agility, another designed to maintain trail integrity, and the last balancing both elements. Team members must pass the mail between themselves at a comfortable speed, but remember that speed is crucial. If the mailbag gets dropped, the "delivery rider" must dismount, retrieve the bag, hand it back to the original rider, and then continue the pony express race.
Be the fastest team to deliver the mailbag while completing all obstacles and the speed trail – and win! You may ride the same course/leg with your horse if there is no other choice and all riders had been on each.

We will be awarding buckles in most classes and great prizes!
For only $200, you may sponsor the buckles and prizes for the class participants through 4th.
For just $125, you are a buckle sponsor and will award a special person potentially their 1st place win.

Possible Obstacles:
Backing, Rope & metal gates, Gait Transitions, Roping, Dragging, Bridges, Pick Up Feet, Load in Trailer, Mailbox, Bell, Put on Raincoat or similar, carry items and mail bag, Mount, Use Mounting Block, Move animals.
New obstacles may be added at any time for different classes.

The History

The Pony Express was an American express mail service that used relays of horse-mounted riders. It operated from April 3, 1860, to October 26, 1861.

With only two months to make the Pony Express a reality, the team of William H. Russell, Alexander Majors and William B. Waddell had their hands full in January 1860. Over 100 stations, 400-500 horses and enough riders were needed - at an estimated cost of $70,000.

But on April 3, 1860, the first official delivery began at the eastern terminus of the Pony Express in St. Joseph, Missouri. Amid great fanfare and with many dignitaries present, a mail pouch containing 49 letters, five telegrams and miscellaneous papers was handed to a rider. At 7:15 p.m., a cannon was fired and the rider bolted off to a waiting ferry boat.

The Pony Express was set up to provide a fresh horse every 10-15 miles and a fresh rider every 75-100 miles. 75 horses were needed total to make a one-way trip. Average speed was 10 miles per hour.

On April 9 at 6:45 p.m., the first rider from the east reached Salt Lake City, Utah. Then, on April 12, the mail pouch reached Carson City, Nevada at 2:30 p.m.

The riders raced over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, through Placerville, California and on to Sacramento. Around midnight on April 14, 1860, the first mail pouch was delivered via the Pony Express to San Francisco.

Despite the success and approval of the public, the Pony Express was by no means a trouble-free operation after the first delivery. Costs and difficulties of maintaining the extensive network of stations, people and horses were numerous. Yet the Pony Express, with the exception of delays caused by the Pyramid Lake War, stayed in operation until the telegraph's arrival in 1861.

Pledge for Pony Express Riders

I do hereby swear before the Great and Living God, that during my engagement, and while I am an employee of the Pony Express Company, I will, under no circumstances, use profane language, that I will drink no intoxicating liquors, that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee of the firm, and that in every respect, I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties and so direct all my acts to the confidence of my employees, so help me God!