

ELWG Report August 2025

Recreation Programs

Gymkhana nights –

These seem to have been well received and reasonably well attended. They are still poorly publicized and it is difficult to enter on line. There is also confusion on the “Kids Day: - is this unmounted? How to advertise to public at large that a horse is not required?

County Horse Show

New date, Sept 20. Not well publicized outside of county website. Information on the county website is inaccurate in some cases, and incomplete in others. The online registration is non functional.

Specifics: Online registration does not permit one to register for individual classes. Online registration has confusing links.

Links to rules lead to last years information in some cases and last years scheduling.

Youth must wear ASCI approved helmet in all classes – **there is no such thing**. It is ASTM/SEI (stated properly in the next line about helmets in over-fences classes).

Basic Rules

All classes may be ridden in these types of tack

No Studs/Stallions

English, Western. Dressage and Australian saddles. NO Bareback Pads

The No Stud/stallions is not related to TACK and should be placed elsewhere

Class #2 Intro Dressage W/T

Lists WDAA Intro test 1 or USDF test 1 SHOULD READ USDF INTRO TEST 1, and also specify year of test – included in the attachments the county is using a test from 2011 – there is a much more recent test. Also a question ?why only W/T test? If there is a dressage judge, W/T/C tests would be appreciated.

Class #5 and 6

Description says required obstacles Include Gate, yet there is no gate in the class

Class #9 Barrels 10 under- states that Barrels may be ran left or right-----should be run?

Class numbering – numbers in the descriptions to not match class numbers in the schedule. There is no description of the 8 and under horsemanship.

In the schedule under speed events it states **“Cowboy hats or helmets are optional for those 18 and over, but helmets are required for those under 18 (except speed events)”**
It seems illogical that helmets for youth would be optional in speed events but required everywhere else?

The Release of Liability concerning on a few fronts, but the major one is: **“ In case of injury or inability to finish the competition, I hereby grant Los Alamos County Recreation and Parks and Open space divisions permission to transport me / my child to the nearest medical facility”**

What does “inability to finish the competition” have to do with medical transportation? Who would give parks staff permission to transport? LAFD/ Ambulance, yes, but parks and rec staff? Legally we all have the right to refuse treatment including transportation.

The patterns published for Hunter Hack – the fences are no longer in those locations. The pattern for W/T Trail is titled Walk/Trot TAIL

Input had been given over the past few years about returning to a Rail Class es type of horse show. The current type of show was adopted during COVID so that folks could still show. Some of these individual pattern classes are good to keep, but the input we are hearing is that many would like rail classes back.

The difficulty in registering on line, and the inability to post enter (enter classes the day of the show), and the limited publicity will again impact entries.

RODEO

The rodeo attendance this year appeared to be down compared to last year. An informal head count by citizens showed approximately 500 in the public area on Saturday and about 250 on Sunday. It would be helpful to get the gate numbers (not the cell phone data, the paid attendance). Sunday there were about 110 cars parked in the North Mesa

parking area. It would also be helpful to get the numbers of competitors and compare with previous years.

The rodeo traffic through the stables was improved this year- thank you for the multiple signs directing competitors and spectators to San Ildefonso.

The Stable Stroll was again a success Thank you to the county for facilitating traffic safety. One barn counted almost 300 people through.