



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AERC Announces International Endurance Equine Excellence Award

The American Endurance Ride Conference is pleased to announce its first-ever International Endurance Equine Excellence Award.

The nonprofit organization, which sanctions endurance rides in the USA and Canada, is reaching out beyond its boundaries to acknowledge accomplished horses with demonstrated longevity in the sport of endurance riding.

The top horses will be named at the AERC convention's national award ceremony on March 9, 2019, in Reno, Nevada. Winning horses will receive a custom-embroidered horse blanket and owners will receive a custom trophy. Awards will be mailed to nominators if they are not present at the AERC convention.

"The purpose of this award is recognize gifted endurance athletes/horses that have consistently and reliably performed at a high level for many years," said Past AERC President Michael Campbell. "Typically a single owner/rider has managed the horse's conditioning and nurtured the horse's attitude in a way that exemplifies the relationship between horse and rider typical of traditional endurance rides over difficult trails and terrain."

AERC, in seeking to emphasize longevity as an essential ingredient to success, requires that the nominated horse have a minimum of eight years of endurance competition. The award's minimum mileage requirement is 2500 miles/4000 km in rides of 50 miles/80 km or longer.

"AERC hopes this award will assist in a return to traditional endurance riding values which emphasize the partnership between a horse and rider team over a challenging trail as opposed to current trends toward racing that emphasize speed over flat courses with little concern for the overall well-being of the horse," said Campbell.

Nominations are welcomed from every country where a national federation or national governing body oversees endurance-distance rides (50 miles/80 kilometers) or longer.

Nominations for the 2018 awards are due by December 30, 2018.

Award requirements: <https://aerc.org/static/2018ExcellenceAward.aspx>

Online application form: <https://aerc.org/static/2018ExcellenceAward.aspx>

About AERC

The American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) was founded in 1972 as a national governing body for long distance riding. Over the years it has developed a set of rules and guidelines designed to provide a standardized format and strict veterinary controls. The AERC sanctions more than 700 rides each year throughout North America. The organization is headquartered in Auburn, California—the “endurance capital of the world.”

In addition to promoting the sport of endurance riding, the AERC encourages the use, protection, and development of equestrian trails, especially those with historic significance. Many special events of four to six consecutive days take place over historic trails, such as the Pony Express Trail, the Outlaw Trail, the Chief Joseph Trail, and the Lewis and Clark Trail. The founding ride of endurance riding, the Western States Trail Ride or “Tevis,” covers 100 miles of the famous Western States and Immigrant Trails over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. These rides promote awareness of the importance of trail preservation for future generations and foster an appreciation of our American heritage. For more information please visit us at www.aerc.org.

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