

# The Dr. Gail Conway Memorial Ride

## River Run Feb. 22 & 23rd, 2025

Sanctioned by The American Endurance Ride  
Conference

*River Run will be conducted according to AERC  
Rules.*

**TO FINISH IS TO WIN**



**Ride Manager:** Eron Howell, [eronh@gvtc.com](mailto:eronh@gvtc.com) cell: 210-386-2265. Happy to answer all questions.

**Assistant RMs:** Paulette Brehob and Tommy Robichaux & Safe Sport person

**Ride Secretary:** Eron, and helpers

**Vets:** Cheryl Sofaly, Val Jaffe, Dustin S. Major

**Online Jot Form entry:** <https://form.jotform.com/243374673612156>

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You can pay at the ride.

### Camp opens

**Friday at noon**, our crew will not be ready and the gate closed. The ride is at The Land Heritage Institute, 1349 Neal Rd., San Antonio, TX, 78264. Just off 1604, Applewhite exit, south of San Antonio. (See directions)

If you need to arrive on Thursday, there is an extra \$10 charge from LHI, please e-mail or call Eron. You're welcome, but need to know, gates will not be just open. Hook-ups are for ride staff.

### Camp Details

All horses must have a current Coggins and out of state horses a health certificate. All horses must be at least 48 months, including Intro horses.

As you drive in, please stop at check-in for parking instructions and have your papers handy. All horses will be checked at this time for matching Coggins. You will be given a liability release to sign for everyone in your party.

**There is more trailer parking than in the past. However, it is really hard to save spaces because trailers need to be able to get into the parking spaces. As usual we will have parking helpers to guide you.**

**ONE HORSE PER ELECTRIC PEN.** Electric pens must be hot. If you have containment issues, contact me. This is for everyone's safety. Panel pens need to be secure as well. This is very important. If you have not camped with your horse, please practice before the ride.

No potable water, fill your trailers before you come. Plenty of horse water in camp and on trail.

### Very Important LHI Rules

**Please, no smoking on the trails or grounds. LHI requests NO riding when you are not entered. Your entry fee covers riders on the day of their ride only, so you can not ride other days. All trails are used for the ride. Exercise in the main area. At LHI there is no public consumption of alcohol, just like at state parks.**

**LHI will close the gates at noon on Monday. Before you leave, be sure your area is clean.**

**Dogs** must be on a leash, or in a pen, or stay at your camp. And you **MUST** clean up after them. **This is a LHI request. Keep out of the main event area. Plus, the grounds have stickers and coyotes roam at night.**  
**Gates will be closed at night for our safety.**

### **Arrival Time**

If you will arrive after dark, please call Eron about your arrival time. If you get to the Main gate and it is closed, there will be a number to call or text to enter. Just wait and someone will check your papers, sign the release, and help you to a parking area. You can also call to give us a heads up if you are a long way out.

If you need to arrive early on a ride morning, we need to know that as well. Arrangements for you will be made. The vets will check your horse before the ride starts.

### **Registration**

Registration begins Friday at 12:30pm. You must *Pre-register for this ride*. You can pay at registration and make changes, if necessary. We will keep the entry open until Thursday night.

**Please be sure you fill out the Vet card with your information and your horse. You are responsible to make sure AERC has you riding the correct horse.**  
**Put your number on the right side of the horse, that's the side the timers see.**

### **Manure**

We hope to have paid manure scoopers again this year. But everyone must rake up their manure to the side of the pens. Our helpers cannot go into a pen with a horse. This needs to be done regularly so that your horses do not mash it down. We will let everyone know before the ride what the details will be.

## ***Wonderful News!***

**This year we again have “Mrs. Smallz” Food Truck the WHOLE weekend! Friday noon through Sunday dinner! Reasonable prices and a good variety of delicious menu choices! So bring your money and eat whenever you want. Coffee and snacks all day. Grab a breakfast taco before you ride! She'll have special menu items just for us.**  
**No rider meal provided by management, so enjoy the food truck.**

### **TIMES**

**Pre-ride vet-in** 3:30 pm approx.

### **Ride Meetings**

Fri. about 6:30-7, we'll honk a horn. Sat by 7, with awards after all riders are in on Sat. On Sunday, awards after each distance or before you leave. Any changes will be posted.

### **Approximate Ride Start times**

Both days: 6:30 – 50 mile; 7:15 – 25 mile; 8:00 - Intro ride (times are approximate and may change due to weather.) You'll give your number to Eron, RM, in the open area before the start time. And the name of your horse.

### **Junior Riders**

AERC rules pertaining to junior riders apply to all distances (including Intro juniors). Junior riders must wear protective headgear while on horseback (in and out of camp) and be accompanied by an adult sponsor. Riders must notify ride management who the adult sponsor will be for each junior rider before the ride. **Sponsor, you must stay with your rider. If there is a change, you must tell the RM.**

### **Intro and New Riders**

**New Riders, please contact me personally before the ride. We all want to be sure your ride goes smoothly.** There will be a special meeting for you right after the main ride meeting on Friday, so please attend the ride meeting and come up afterwards. Happy to help you to make things easier. **If you have containment issues, please let me know before the ride, so I can help.**

### **All Riders**

Please send entry with your membership number and coggins number to Eron. Coggins papers will be checked to match your horse before you park.

If you are mailing your entry, do so by the 12<sup>th</sup> of Feb. so I receive them in time. Jot Form Entries must be sent by the 7 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Jot Form works GREAT!. Bring paperwork and payment to registration, cash appreciated! **You must pre-register, it really helps the ride run smoothly, thank you. However, we will keep the ride open until the 20<sup>th</sup>! If you enter but can't come, or arriving late, etc., please let us know as soon as possible.**

**Mail Entry to:**

**ERON HOWELL, PO Box 865, Boerne, TX 78006**

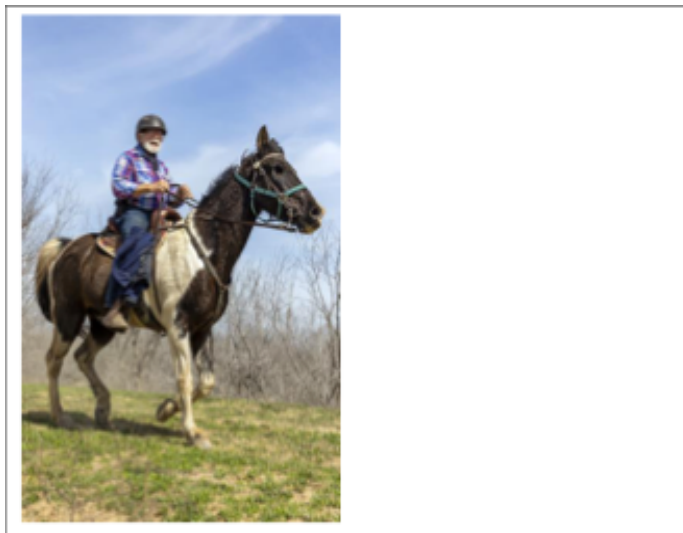
**JOT FORM LINK:** <https://form.jotform.com/243374673612156>

**River Run is a fun ride in a beautiful setting. We stress good sportsmanship and rider safety. This means, follow the rules, no dangerous passing, call out to pass on the left or right, not on both sides of a slower rider. Do not pass where the trails are narrow, there are plenty of places to do so. Do not leave a horse at water, they need to drink. Sportsmanship Rules will be posted.**

**All vet checks in camp.**

The land Heritage Institute has beautiful South Texas terrain, large mesquite trees, Heritage Oaks, lots of grass, and no rocks! You can ride it barefoot. We will have plenty of horse water on the trails and in camp. Areas marked for in-camp crew set up. Contact Eron for special needs.

This was Dr. Gail Conway's last ride and his last vetting job. But it was not a job, he loved to vet endurance rides and he really cared for our horses. He also loved to ride endurance and socialize with his endurance family. It is impossible to replace him - a dear friend and a key figure in our endurance world.



## Saturday Registration Form River Run

Rider# \_\_\_\_\_

Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AERC #: \_\_\_\_\_, Rider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE to TEXT #: \_\_\_\_\_ We will be sending updates.

EMERGENCY # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ We contact you by e-mail, so please be sure it is correct! Please print clearly.

JUNIOR BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Horse Information:

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse AERC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Mare, Stallion, Gelding

Coggins # \_\_\_\_\_ Owners Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AERC # \_\_\_\_\_

### Rider Division: (circle appropriate division)

Jr (16 yrs & under) Fwt (160 & under) Lwt (161-185) Mwt (186-210) Hwt (211+)

### Distance:

Intro \$ 70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

25 Miles \$ 125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

50 Miles \$ 125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AERC Not Current \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( Does not apply to Intro Riders)

Juniors (Any Distance) \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RIDE DAY TOTAL.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Bring to registration: Rider & horse paperwork, and payment. Cash appreciated. Riders are responsible to be sure all ride changes are made before the ride. Ride details in the pack.**

**Checks will be payable to Eron Howell,  
For questions email Eron at: [eronh@gvtc.com](mailto:eronh@gvtc.com), or call or text: 210-386-2265  
Feel free to ask any question, we're all here to help you have a fun, safe ride.**

**Mail Entry to:  
Eron Howell: PO Box 865, Boerne TX 78006**

**JOT FORM LINK:** <https://form.jotform.com/243374673612156>

## Sunday. Registration Form River Run

Rider# \_\_\_\_\_

Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AERC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Rider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE to TEXT #: \_\_\_\_\_ We will be sending updates.

EMERGENCY # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ We contact you by e-mail, so please be sure it is correct! Please print clearly.

JUNIOR BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sunday Horse Information:

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse AERC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Mare, Stallion, Gelding

Coggins # \_\_\_\_\_ Owners Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AERC # \_\_\_\_\_

### Rider Division: (circle appropriate division)

Jr (16 yrs & under) Fwt (160 & under) Lwt (161-185) Mwt (186-210) Hwt (211+)

### Distance:

Intro \$ 70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

25 Miles \$ 125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

50 Miles \$ 125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AERC Not Current \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Does not apply to Intros)

Junior (Any Distance) \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RIDE DAY TOTAL. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Bring to registration: Rider and horse info and payment. Cash appreciated. Riders are responsible to be sure all ride changes are made before the ride. Ride details in the pack.**

**Checks will be payable to Eron Howell,**

**For questions email Eron at: [eronh@gvvc.com](mailto:eronh@gvvc.com), or call or text: 210-386-2265**

**Feel free to ask any question, we're all here to help you have a fun, safe ride.**

**Mail Entry to:**

**Eron Howell, PO Box 865, Boerne, TX 78006**

**JOT FORM LINK: <https://form.jotform.com/243374673612156>**

## **Liability Release: River Run, Gail Conway Memorial Ride both Legal and Medical Release**

As a participant in the River Run Endurance Ride, I \_\_\_\_\_ agree to abide by the rules of AERC, TERA, and the Land Heritage Institute. I understand that endurance riding involves being in remote areas for extended periods of time, far from communication, transportation, and medical facilities, that these areas have many natural or man-made hazards which ride management cannot anticipate, identify, modify or eliminate: that horses can be excitable, difficult to control and unpredictable; and that accidents can happen to anyone at any time. I agree to take full responsibility for myself and the animal I am riding. I will hold the ride management, all ride personnel, and all property owners over whose land the ride covers, The Land Heritage Institute and its Board, blameless for any accident, injury or loss and free from all liability of such injury or loss that may occur due to my participation in the ride.

I acknowledge that I assume full responsibility for the safety of horse, my guests, and myself. By my signature, I hereby waive all rights to file a claim or lawsuit against Land Heritage Institute and all its personnel and Board, State of Texas, AERC, TERA, River Run Endurance Ride including all management, ride personnel, and all medical personnel, for any injury or damages which may occur during the time I am at the ride site.

Additionally, I agree to be fully financially responsible for any necessary emergency medical treatment by any medical person or institution in the event of injury or illness. I give my consent for and will be financially responsible for emergency medical treatment for myself, my horse, if I am unable to give informed consent.

Any Known Drug Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand this liability release.

Rider Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Juniors Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Owners Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? [eronh@gvtc.com](mailto:eronh@gvtc.com)**

**Cell # 210-386-2265**

### **Directions to River Run:**

**The Land Heritage Institute is south of San Antonio, just off 1604, 1349 Neal Road less than a mile from Applewhite. Come in from Applewhite or your GPS may take you to the wrong gate. If you come from the north or east of San Antonio, on 281, take Loop 410 around San Antonio to I-37, or 281 south, then take 1604 west to Applewhite Rd. turn right (north) on Applewhite to the first road to the right, Neal Road. Go straight, then 1 mile to the AERC sign and large double gate. Follow the signs to the check-in.**

**From I-10 West take 1604 south past Somerset, past 16, to Applewhite, turn left, the first right onto Neal Road, 1.2 miles to the double gates. Or take I-10 to I-35, then Palo Alto exit go under the freeway, to Watson Rd., turn left on Applewhite, then right on Neal Rd.**

**Remember: GPS may take you to the wrong gate, Follow ribbons & sign to the front gate!**

## Ride Rules:

1. The equines are under the control of experienced ride veterinarians who will do everything possible to help you evaluate your equine in order that you may complete the ride without hurting your equine; however, you must accept responsibility for your equine and yourself. The vets may disqualify any rider who has, in the opinion of the vets, abused his/her equine. The Veterinarian's decision will be final in all matters concerning the safety and well-being of the equines entered in the ride.
2. Proof of a negative Coggins test dated within 12 months for Texas and out-of-state equines is mandatory. Every equine entering the camping area must have a negative Coggins on site. Coggins papers may be checked at check-in.
3. The ride is open to all breeds of equines (horses, mules, ponies, etc.). The equine must be at least 60 months of age to enter the 50 rides. Equines entering the 25-mile limited distance ride must be at least 48 months of age.
4. A junior rider is a rider who was under the age of 16 the first day of the ride season. Juniors must be accompanied by a competent adult sponsor (21 years old or older) entered in the ride and must list the sponsor on the entry form and **must finish within one minute of the sponsor. If sponsor changes RM must know!** Failure of either to wait on the other will result in the loss of completion to both riders. Sponsors may be changed only at vet checks and only with the approval of ride management. AERC ruling for 14–16-year-old/500-mile completion can apply if management has a copy of the AERC letter. **ALL JUNIORS ENTERED IN THE RIDE MUST WEAR APPROVED SAFETY HELMETS WHILE ON HORSEBACK** regardless of ride entry status.
5. All riders must be present and accounted for at the start of the ride. Management strongly recommends ALL riders wear approved safety helmets while on horseback.
6. The same horse and rider must pass all checkpoints, follow the ride rules, stay on the marked trail and do the loops in the correct order to receive completion. The 50-mile placing will be determined by first horse to cross the finish line. Ties recognized only if management cannot determine placement. ALL equines must see a Vet for completion check or when pulling for any reason. All riders must display good sportsmanship, or be disqualified if reports of misconduct are verified.
7. Vet criteria (pulse/respiration requirements, holds, etc.) will be discussed at the pre-ride meeting, or given out. Keep this info. Riders are responsible for understanding this information. All equines in each distance must meet ride criteria within 30 minutes at the vet check, or be disqualified. The final pulse rate criteria for 50 milers will be 30 minutes after the equine crosses the finish line. Then within an hour present for all other criteria. For 25 milers, LDs, the riding time continues until a preset judging criteria of 60 heartbeats per minute or less is met. At Vet checks the equine must meet a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions within 30 minutes of arrival at the check point. At the finish, LD riders have 6 hours to finish the course, and an additional 30 minutes if needed to pulse down.
8. There is no minimum time limit for completion in any distance. Maximum ride time, including holds, for completion is 12 hours for 50 milers and 6 hours for 25 milers. No limit for Intro riders. The equine of all distances must be metabolically fit to continue and have no gait aberrations that are consistently observable at a trot and must have a pulse of 64 or less, last year it was 60; pulse of 60 or less for 25 milers. Riders will dismount for completion trot. For Best Condition judging, equines must present for a 15-minute CRI, then a one-hour post-ride check – 15 minute CRI time measured from the finishing time. To be eligible for Best Condition Award, riders must weigh before leaving vet check area.
9. Riders are responsible for all farrier and vet fees that may be individually incurred.
10. During the ride, dogs are to be on a leash or confined to rider's camp.
11. **ONE HORSE PER ELECTRIC PEN ONLY**, Multiple electric pens are fine. **HORSES CAN BE TIED TO YOUR TRAILER OR A HIE TIE, OR IN STURDY PORTABLE PENS.**
12. **Safe sportsmanship will be enforced. Riders must call out so heard to pass on the left or right, not both. Pass only where there is room so no rider will be too close to thorns and bushes. Do not leave a horse drinking at water. Wait or ask if you can leave. Ride Management does not encourage racing, "To Finish is to Win"**

