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Mars Essex Horse Trials Set to Begin After 19-Year Hiatus

Spectacular Equestrian Competition and Family Friendly Fun

Far Hills, New Jersey - June 23, 2017 - The much anticipated return of the Mars Essex Horse Trials has arrived! One of the nation's most revered equestrian competitions, the iconic event returns after a 19-year absence to historic Moorland Farm in Far Hills, NJ, June 24-25.

This year's Essex Horse Trials features beginner novice through preliminary levels with riders vying for \$25,000 in prize money. Among the riders who are competing are international eventing stars Buck Davidson, Missy Ranshousen, Holly Payne Caravella and Jennie Brannigan.



In addition to top-notch competition, the event will showcase family friendly activities throughout the weekend including a classic car show; a Farmstand offering fresh farm-to-table food from local markets and specialties from artisan vendors; the Essex Market which features a wide range of shopping from saddles and riding boots to jewelry and artwork; and a Children's Activity Center, sponsored by The Willow School, that will offer a fun and creative diversion for younger spectators and their parents.

Moorland Farm, a picturesque 230-acre property, provides the breathtaking setting for the event's return. It is the home of the annual Far Hills Race Meeting, a series of nationally prestigious steeplechase races held each October.

General Admission is just \$20 and includes both days. Tickets are available at the gate. Proceeds from the event benefit the Greater Newark LifeCamp, which provides an enriching

day camp experience for approximately 300 Newark-area youths per day for six weeks during July and August.



The History

For three decades, the Essex Horse Trials was one of the highlights of the equestrian calendar, attracting top American and international competitors as well as thousands of fans who enjoyed its social aspects as well. The trials were originally conceived in 1968 as a competition for less experienced riders and horses.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the event continued to grow. It expanded to a three-day format and eventually moved to the United States Equestrian Team headquarters at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, where riders competed for positions at both the Olympic Games and World Championships. The event ended on its 30th anniversary in 1998 when some of the USET land was developed.

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Mars Essex Horse Trials Fast Facts

WHAT:

2 days of equestrian and family activities in New Jersey's horse country

WHEN:

Saturday, June 24 --- 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 25 --- 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Moorland Farm
50 US 202
Far Hills, NJ 07931

TICKETS/INFO:

All tickets include 2-day admission and free parking.

Gate: \$20.

Children age 14 and under: Free.

VIP Hoopstick Club: \$250, includes preferred ringside seating, continental breakfast, lunch or brunch, cocktail party.

Tailgating: \$400, includes one reserved hillside parking space and four admission tickets.

INFO: www.essexhorsetrials.org or 908-234-9115



#EssexHorseTrials