

# Equestrian Talent Search



## Hunter Equitation Clinics

### 2009/2010 Dates...

January 24-25, 2009 – Mt. Holyoke College, Massachusetts  
July 25-26, 2009 – Randolph College, Lynchburg Virginia  
September 19-20, 2009 – Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts  
October 24-25, 2009 – Centenary College, Hackettstown, New Jersey  
January 23-24, 2010 – Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts  
March 2010 – Chatham Hall School, Chatham, Virginia

- COMING soon - Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, California! More dates to be added – get on our e-mail list for breaking info!

*Do you know a rider interested in college equestrian? Here's a chance for riders and parents to work directly with experienced college coaches to get help with their college search. We help riders find teams and coaches find riders!*

**EQUESTRIAN TALENT SEARCH** wants to do for high school riders what football and basketball coaches camps have done for those sports. "Combines" allow young athletes to be taught, seen, and evaluated by college coaches in intensive weekend instructional / competition clinics. Equestrian Talent Search is the clearing house for young riders and their parents to get information to help them understand exactly what college equestrian is about, how to become involved, and how to find a program that is a good fit.

*"We want to thank you for an incredible weekend at Mount Holyoke. We were so impressed with the organization of the whole weekend - there was no unnecessary waiting around or getting lost - everything was very well planned out and strategic."  
- Elizabeth and Sophie Morris, Slingerlands, New York*

*"There were so many learning opportunities for Hillary: riding unfamiliar horses; riding in a collegiate setting; the clinics, the lectures, the show. Wow!"  
- Marcy and Hilary Goldsmith, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

*We LOVED the weekend at Lake Erie College. You did a fabulous job - very informative and fun at the same time."  
- Beth Hagerty, Aspen Colorado*

***We help riders find the right colleges, and college coaches find riders,***

### Background

- Equestrian Talent Search was created because longtime college equestrian coaches recognized the need for education of parents as much as students. When recruiting riders, coaches find that many students don't understand how collegiate riding works, and most parents are confused with the options and choices, and how to become involved.
- ETS is as much about educating and helping parents as it is about the riders.
- We find many riders focusing on colleges that are not right for them. We help students narrow the college search using good information about riding programs, coaches, and teams to assist in their making sound college decisions.
- Graduates from the first couple years of our programs are currently riding – many with scholarships – at places like Texas A&M, Virginia Intermont, Baylor, Hollins, Sweet Briar, Kansas State, Xavier, SMU, South Dakota State, Cornell, Virginia Tech, Vanderbilt, Findlay, Charleston, Mount Holyoke, Lynchburg, Georgia, Lake Erie, and many, many others.

## Format

- This combine is intended for anyone interested in riding seriously for a college equestrian team, whether it is next year or five years from now. The majority of participants are generally juniors and seniors, but there are always several sophomores and freshman involved.
- Riders may NOT bring a horse with them – they will use a school horse from the host, just as they would do in a collegiate equestrian competition.
- All clinics begin with a Friday night 8PM seminar discussion with an overview of college riding, to get everyone on the same page in understanding what college riding is all about.
- Saturday will be filled with mounted clinics with college coaches, finding the specific things that will draw either positive or negative attention to individual riders in a team tryout situation. Much of the day will be free time, so this would be a great time for kids and parents to schedule side tips for local college visits.
- Saturday evening will be a seminar for kids and parents about choosing a college that is suitable for them. We'll also talk some sports psychology about riders as athletes!
- Sunday is a horse show similar in format to collegiate shows. Each hunter rider will compete in both equitation on the flat and over fences, in groups based on age and experience.
- Parents are encouraged, and most kids have parents with them for all weekend activities.
- Trainers are welcome, but not at all required. Most kids do not have trainers with them.

## Riders

- ✓ This combine is intended for hunter seat riders, 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In fairness to everyone, hunter riders must be capable of safely jumping at least a 2' course on a strange horse to be accepted to participate.
- ✓ Clinic weekends are limited to small groups, so we can get to know each rider personally. Therefore, we must close entries when the clinic is full – enter early!
- ✓ Riders will be divided into groups for clinics and show classes based on age and previous competition experience. We want everyone working and competing at their own levels.
- ✓ Each rider will have a "Bio Page" in a catalog available to coaches, instantly representing riders' age, show experience, training and background info, photo, and college level rider placement (if you were to enter college today).
- ✓ Riders receive a "report card" following the weekend, evaluating skills in different areas and assessing a "recruiting rating" which is meaningful to coaches.
- ✓ Bio Pages and Report Cards will be available to college coaches who request the information, and juniors/seniors promoted to colleges of their choice.

## Horses

Riders will be assigned horses provided by the Host school for clinics and show. In most cases, these are the same horses used in the college program. This is the format of collegiate riding, and the format coaches want to see.



## Coaches

- ✓ Clinicians will be college coaches, and we try to have a college coach judge the show as well. In addition, we will make every attempt to have a variety of coaches in attendance to observe the Saturday clinics, the Sunday show, and perhaps even participating in the nightly seminars. However, the focus of the event remains teaching and evaluation by clinicians, and then reporting results on a wider scale to college coaches whether they are in attendance or not. You will get plenty of exposure even with coaches who aren't there.
- ✓ College coaches will do all the teaching in clinics and seminars, and will be available all weekend for any individual questions or discussions with parents.
- ✓ In general, you can expect to meet coaches from schools that are regional to the host of each event. In other words, you will most likely meet mostly New York coaches in NY, etc.

## Clinics / Seminars:

### Friday night 8PM orientation seminar:

- Definitely something that parents will want to attend.
- College riding associations explained - IHSA, NCAA, IDA, ANRC, etc
- High school and middle school riding associations and opportunities.
- How to get recruited for college riding.
- What college coaches REALLY want to see from prospects (and NOT see).
- Q and A session with college coaches.

### Saturday mounted clinics with college coaches:

- What college coaches want to see, starting with understanding and correct use of natural aids.
- Problem areas that will red-flag college coaches in a tryout situation.
- Things that will grab the coach's attention in a positive way.
- Specific exercises and drills to improve strength and skills and bring young riders more on the level of a college rider.
- Practice in specific skills for riding strange horses.
- Kids will be divided into clinic groups based on experience levels, as in collegiate riding associations, so everyone will ride with kids of similar experience level.
- Based on expected participation, each student will ride a 90 minute clinic, encompassing both flat and fences, and working with both coaches.
- Riders will receive horse assignments about an hour prior to their clinic, and will be responsible for tacking and untacking their horses (with help from the host students). All together, students can expect to be involved in the barn about 3 hours on Saturday.
- Everyone is welcome to observe all clinics if you like. There will be people watching all day.
- While not riding, students will be invited to attend info sessions and tours conducted by the school's Equine Admissions Office, and there will be other educational activities planned.

### Saturday evening is the "college search discussion" seminar with coaches:

- Strategies for narrowing your college choices.
- Equestrian as a college interest, as either a major, minor or extracurricular.
- Q and A session with college admissions officer.
- How fees and financial aid work, and what can you realistically expect from riding scholarship programs?
- We will be available to make specific recommendations of college choices that might be a good fit for individual students... in private, after the seminar.
- Sports psychology for equestrians
- Riders will also have a chance to discuss problem areas with clinic coaches prior to the Sunday horse show.

## Show:

- ✓ In the Sunday show, each hunter student will ride *equitation over fences* class, and an *equitation on the flat* class on horses they drew randomly for each event.
- ✓ Classes will be judged and placed just like a regular show, and riders will receive awards.
- ✓ College coaches will be invited to visit on Sunday and watch the show, and visit with students that are of interest. They will be given a Rider Catalog with all the kids' BIO's.
- ✓ College riding programs and teams will be invited to send promotional information for a mini college fair on Sunday – that info from all around the nation will be available to you during the show on Sunday.
- ✓ **Team Competition:** In addition to individual competition, riders are entered in organized team competitions. This truly provides the "team sport" feeling of our sport, and earn additional prizes for winners.. Using the individual placings in combination with those of their teammates, we will also award Champion prizes.
- ✓ Top individual riders in each division will earn additional prizes as "Champion" riders.

## Following the clinic:

- ✓ After the clinic weekend, Equestrian Talent Search will actively promote top seniors in each age group directly to college coaches and programs who would be interested! We'll also help junior students determine what programs would be most suitable for them, and help them to make contacts at schools of interest to them.
- ✓ Each rider will receive an evaluation "grade card" of skills sometime following the event

**Cost** of the 2009/2010 weekend is **\$360**, covering the cost of all individual entry fees, clinic fees, seminar fees, and gets parents into everything as well. We encourage parents to attend everything. *(We reserve the right to increase cost slightly without notice.)*

At least **\$180 DEPOSIT** IS DUE WITH THE ENTRY PACKET, and the rest may be paid at Registration on Friday night of the event. The deposit is non-refundable.



## Event Producer and Head Clinician:

**Jim Arrigon** has been a National Champion College Equestrian Coach for over 20 years, and has served as an officer of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association for nearly that long. Jim was a collegiate rider himself, graduating from the University of Kentucky, then coached at Murray State University and Miami University of Ohio, where he coached over two dozen team and individual National Championships. He received the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, the highest coaching honor in the IHSA. He left Miami in spring 2005 after seventeen years, then coached the Ohio State University to their only National Championship appearance and an individual National Championship in 2006. He coached six National Champion collegiate riders in his last five years at Miami. Jim and Gwen now coach a new team at Xavier University in Cincinnati. They also coach the 2009 IEA National Champion high school team that has produced NCAA scholarship riders for Kansas State, Fresno State, Oklahoma State, Cornell, SMU in the past three years.

## Business Manager:

**Gwen Arrigon** is the president of Beckett Run Inc., the management company responsible for "Equestrian Talent Search", "Tournament of Champions" collegiate shows, and many other Ohio Hunter Jumper Association and other shows. Beckett Run is also a very busy teaching, boarding, and show stable in the Cincinnati suburbs of Hamilton, Ohio. Gwen also coaches both Xavier University in the IHSA, and Beckett Run Equestrian in the IEA, and is Zone Director for IEA. Jim and Gwen have two children – Matt graduated from Miami of Ohio, and Hallie attends Vanderbilt – both rode for their college teams.

**Clinicians and Judges:** In 2009-10 may include Eddie Federwisch of Virginia Intermont College; JT Tallon of Randolph College, Naomi Blumenthal of Cazenovia College, CJ Law- Mount Holyoke College, Becki Bloom of Univ. of Pittsburgh, Ginny Smith of Georgia, Amy Sherrick-Cazenovia College, Sally Batton of Dartmouth, Krista Steinmetz of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Blaine Newsome-Ohio State, Dirk Fogg of Johnson & Wales, Matt Arrigon of Lynchburg College and more.



To get an entry packet:  
[www.EquestrianTalentSearch.com](http://www.EquestrianTalentSearch.com)

or

Contact Jim Arrigon for more info...

[EquestrianTalentSearch@yahoo.com](mailto:EquestrianTalentSearch@yahoo.com)