

## Poker Ride/ Hike Fundraiser a Great Success

From Friends of Governor Dodge State Park  
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On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park-Equestrians hosted their 5<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser. Assisted by perfect weather conditions, the event drew a record 124 paid participants who either rode their horses along a marked section of the park's equestrian trails or joined park naturalist Josh Kozelka in a guided hike. Participants who completed the course drew cards for a poker hand at the conclusion, and cash prizes were awarded for the 3 winning hands.

The winning poker hand was drawn by 7-year-old Ella Mellum of Spring Green who took home the top prize of \$100. This was Ella's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of riding at the event with her mother, Tara Mellum, and grandmother, Katee Christianson. Ella rode her Grandpa's mule, Glenda, this year. Rose Rott drew cards to earn second place and Rogers Parr came in third.

This year the names of park supporters who had been saving change for the Dimes for Dodge campaign were entered in a drawing for prizes. Connie Prouty and Lacey Campbell Rebarck were the lucky winners. Every little bit counts!

Following the ride and hike, participants enjoyed a lunch and live music, and the opportunity to bid on over 100 silent auction items donated by local and national companies and individual park supporters. Thanks to generous sponsors, auction donors, and attendees, this year's event was the most successful ever, netting more than the group's \$10,000 fundraising goal.

Proceeds from the poker ride and hike will go towards building a new, modern 21-site equestrian campground at the park. This ambitious project has an estimated construction budget of approximately \$550,000 and has been in the planning stages for several years. The Friends fundraising efforts, launched at last year's June poker ride, now stand at just over \$200,000. Phase I of the project was completed this spring when the Friends funded construction of a trailhead "Comfort Station" vault toilet that can be enjoyed now by trail riders, hikers, and rock climbers, and will eventually also serve the new campground.



For more information about the campground project, or to learn how you can help, please visit [www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com](http://www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com).

*Pictures from the event are shown on the next page...*

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## Poker Ride/ Hike Fundraiser Pictures

