

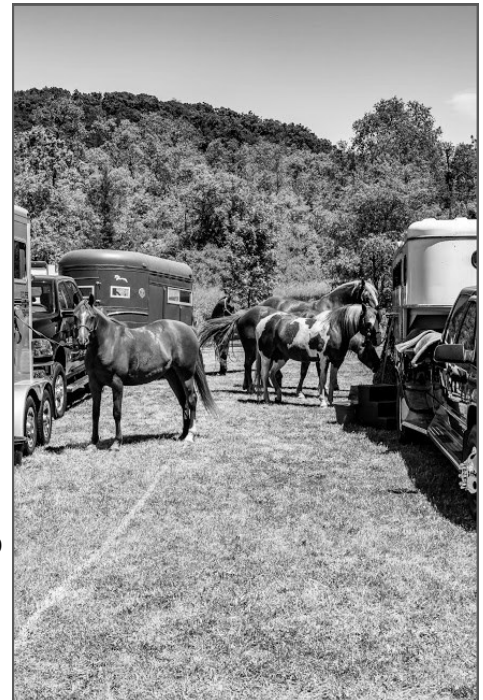
## Poker Ride Fun at Governor Dodge State Park



While it was raining in most parts of the state on June 4<sup>th</sup>, the sun shone brightly on Governor Dodge State Park! It was a perfect day for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraiser hosted by the Friends of Governor Dodge-Equestrians and sponsored by over a dozen businesses and riding clubs. Planning for the Poker Ride/Hike started back in January and, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, it was a successful day with over 100 paid participants!

Horse riders met at Twin Valley picnic shelter and rode out to Old Orchard Pass and then to the Outer Loop, enjoying the beautiful trails at the north edge of the park. Along the way they stopped to collect poker chips at five different stations. At the end of the 1 ½ hour trail ride, poker chips were traded in for a poker hand.

The hikers, led by park naturalist Gayl Stewart, learned about the park's plants and wildlife as they hiked the trails near one of the two beautiful lakes at the park. Hikers enjoyed the day's challenge by stopping at five places along the way to draw cards, each hoping for the winning poker hand.



Nine-year-old Skyla Sutcliffe, riding her horse Bo, won the 1st place \$100 prize with a flush. Skyla's mom said of Skyla, "she actually decided because it was such a big amount of money she wants to open up a savings account at our local bank and put it in there. Very proud of her!"

The 2nd place \$75 prize went to rider Pam Clauer, while the 3rd place \$50 prize was split between rider Pat Henn and hiker Laura Rose.

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Participants that registered for the event before May 15 received a free T shirt with the specially designed Ante Up logo. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch featuring smoked beef brisket sandwiches, baked beans, chips, fruit and dessert. After lunch, a raffle was held for many fabulous items including: golfing for two with carts at The House on the Rock Resort, Taliesin tours for two, Bob's Bitchin' BBQ and Driftless Depot gift cards, several great gift baskets, many lovely art pieces, wearable items, home goods, as well as several bags of horse feed. Many thanks to all



those that donated items and made purchases! Thanks also to Driftless Hills Photography who was on

hand to do professional photographs of riders and their horses with proceeds going to the FOGD-E.



The Friends of Governor Dodge-Equestrians (FOGD-E) is a group of horse riding enthusiasts from the Midwest whose mission is to promote and enhance equestrian experiences at Governor Dodge State Park. Long term goals include improving the horse and rider camping experience and getting a shorter loop choice on the outer loop ride. The Friends of Governor Dodge-Equestrians has provided several mounting blocks throughout the park and has been responsible

for the "comfort stop" at the day riding area. All are welcome to join the group and online sign up is available on their website. <http://www.govdodgeequestrians.com>. Check out Governor Dodge Equestrians on Facebook, too!

