



## Trail Mileage & Saddle Hours Program

(Revised 5/13/2019)

Document owner: Trail Mileage & Saddle Hour chair

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Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Program has three goals.

1. To provide the Ohio Horseman's Council with documented and quantified support to maintain, improve and expand the trail systems/facilities in Ohio.
2. To recognize individuals who have reached various levels of enjoyment and/or accomplishment with their horses that all horsemen respect and admire.
3. To recognize the wide variety of interests and activities that our members and their horses are involved in.

On an annual basis, members report their mileage and hours logged to their county representative, who in turn submits a consolidated report to the State Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Chairperson. The chairperson compiles all county reports and statistical information.

Records are kept for all reporting members. Members can qualify for and purchase patches based on the levels of achievement throughout their lifetime. Trail Mileage Patch Order Form XLS and Trail Mileage Patch Pictures.

In addition, annual awards are given in the following categories:

### Individual Awards

- Top Ten Adult Trail Riders
- Top Ten Youth Trail Riders
- Top Ten Adult Saddle Hours
- Top Ten Youth Saddle Hours
- Trail Rider's Hall of Fame

The Top Mileage County will be recognized with "Bragging Rights".

The Top Mileage Riding Area will also be recognized with "Bragging Rights".

With the exception of the Trail Rider's Hall of Fame, all annual awards are presented during the Spring Membership Meeting.

Trail Rider's Hall of Fame - Recognizes a Lifetime Achievement of 25,000 miles of Trail Riding. State OHC awards a customized, personalized belt buckle to each member achieving this lofty goal. The Trail Rider's Hall of Fame resides on the ohconline.com website. Click here to see it. So keep riding and reporting!

Saddle Hour's Hall of Fame - Lifetime Achievement of accumulated Saddle Hours being considered (currently under construction). Check back but keep track and turn in your hours so we will know how long it may take to add up.

Definitions - Saddle Hours and Trail Mileage are different from each other. Time on the trail is reported as MILEAGE and time in the saddle NOT on the trail, is reported as HOURS. See below for more detailed definitions.

Trail Mileage Definition - Our state, national and county parks and forests provide many miles of trails for riding and driving. Our state agencies have an interest in knowing where we are riding and how much the trails are being used. Reportable trail miles are ridden on trails that traverse multiple types of terrain. Because some areas of the state have only limited trail systems, miles ridden on county and state roadways are reportable trail miles. Miles ridden in an arena or on a track do not qualify as trail mileage but can be reported under Saddle Hours.

Saddle Hours Definition - Our members have a wide variety of equine interests. Hours in the saddle showing and competing, pleasure driving, riding in parades and schooling can all be counted toward the member's lifetime achievement record.

#### Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Reporting

Validation - The Trail Mileage and Saddle Hours Program is an "honor" based-system of self-reporting from each member. Mileage/hours are to be reported to each County Designee for validation prior to submission to the state. Mileage/Hours sent by each county are considered validated once they are sent on to the state. Any discrepancies or disputes regarding mileage/hours submitted should be addressed to the county designee.

Trail Mileage - There are three categories for trail mileage – PK/FRST, PUB/PRV and STX.

1. PK/FRST: Park and forest trail miles are miles ridden on legally designated trails in any park or forest owned by a city, county, State of Ohio, or the federal government within the state of Ohio.
2. PUB/PRV: Public trail miles are miles ridden on a trail that is open to the general public and is owned by an individual or organization. A fee to use these trails may/may not be required. Miles ridden on Rails-To-Trails, county and state roadways are also considered public trail miles. Private trail miles are ridden on a trail that is NOT open to the general public and is owned by an individual or organization. Don't forget to include your miles on home trails too!
3. STX: Out-of-state trail miles are miles ridden on trails that match any of the above criteria but, are ridden in a state other than Ohio. Don't forget to include your out-of-the country miles if you are fortunate enough to ride outside the United States of America.

How to Calculate Mileage - Unfortunately horses don't come with odometers, so to determine miles ridden you will have to estimate. The best way to obtain an estimate is to ride your horse on several types of trails where you can accurately assess the number of miles ridden. Keep track of the time that it takes you to ride this distance (do not include breaks and the time it may take you to get your horse to

cross the water obstacle!). This should help you get a pretty good estimate of your MPH (miles per hour).

Most seasoned trail riders estimate MPH at 2.5 to 5 miles per hour depending on the gait ridden. The typical horse walks at 3-4 MPH, trots at 8-10 MPH and lopes at 10-17 MPH. Find a good mile stretch of area that you can practice and estimate your horses MPH.

Saddle Hours - There are three primary categories for saddle hour reporting – Competing, Schooling and Pleasure Driving.

1. **Competing:** Keep track of any hours that you spend in the saddle competing. This may be at any type of show or competition. Breed shows, open shows, ranch horse competitions, extreme cowboy races, etc. are all examples of what would fall into this category.
2. **Schooling:** Many of us work daily with our horses to continuously improve their performance or to keep them (and us!) in shape. This category would include clinics, lessons and working in your home arena.
3. **Pleasure Driving:** This category is for members that enjoy their horses from a cart or rig. Hours reported in this category are for any hours spent driving for pleasure – whether schooling, competing, parades or just enjoying the trail.

Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Reports - are accumulated and tallied on an annual basis by the state. Each year hundreds of OHC members take the time to report their mileage/hours. This information is the foundation of the program which allows us to achieve our goals and present the various awards. We thank all those who have participated and strongly encourage all of our members to participate in the future. You can view the previous year's Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Reports by clicking [here](#). Check it out! There is only one form to submit both trail mileage and saddle hours.

**NOTE:** Members will submit their miles to their county designee. There is a standard form available on the OHC website to assist with individual member reporting. Please **DO NOT** send your individual miles to the State Chairperson. **ONLY AT-LARGE MEMBERS** are to send their miles/hours directly to the State Chairperson.

County designees are to compile all miles/hours for their members and submit one report to the State Chairperson at [trailmiles@ohconline.com](mailto:trailmiles@ohconline.com). The preferred method for submission is the Excel spreadsheet program via email. The Excel workbook makes it very simple to report mileage per location, helping us to provide insight into where our members are riding (Goal No. 1 of the program). County designees can find the forms and instructions used to submit chapter information to the State Chairperson here: [2017 Trail Mileage and Saddle Hour Program reporting form XLSX](#).

Please contact the State Trail Mile and Saddle Hour Chairperson at [trailmiles@ohconline.com](mailto:trailmiles@ohconline.com) with any questions.

**HAPPY TRAILS!!**

Trail Mileage Patches Available



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