

# The Triathlon of Equestrian Sports

FRVPC TO HOST MIDWEST'S PINNACLE OF EVENTING ON JUNE 21-23

he Fox River Valley Pony Club Horse Trials remains the only nationally-recognized equestrian competition in the Barrington area. For almost five decades, the Fox River Valley Pony Club (FRVPC) with the help of an entire community has organized, hosted, and supported the FRVPC Horse Trials, a nationally-recognized three-day Eventing competition. This event is the largest community event in the Barrington Hills area, bringing together more than 1,000 people as officials, competitors, volunteers, and spectators from around the Chicagoland area and across the United States. Started in 1970, the Fox River Valley Pony Club Horse Trials celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020.

### **OLYMPIC TEAM SPORT**

Comparable to a human triathlon, Eventing is the "triathlon of equestrian sports" and an exciting spectator sport. As one of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines, it is the ultimate test of partnership between horse and rider.

For 49 years, FRVPC Horse Trials has offered riders an opportunity to participate in qualifying competition for National and International Team opportunities. Eventing is divided into three phases: dressage, cross-country, and show jumping, held over the course of three days, testing the horse and rider in three uniquely different and challenging disciplines. These exciting competitions involve riders young and old, local and from surrounding states, those new to the sport, and nationally-ranked equestrians.

#### LAND PRESERVATION

The FRVPC takes responsibility to assist in land preservation before and after the event. The Spring Creek Forest Preserve is protected through the preservation of its exclusive use as equestrian and pedestrian only park land. This is made possible by an intergovernmental agreement and partnership between the Barrington Hills Park

District and the Cook County Forest Preserve, through which FRVPC assumes responsibility for much of the related land management, which includes clearing the trails after the winter season and mowing them in spring and summer. Club members and their families also help to clear invasive plant species as part of their award-winning restoration work.

## **OLYMPIC COURSE DESIGNER**

This year, the FRVPC Horse Trials is hosting a new FEI (Federation Equestre International) CCI\*\* Division. The goal is to give riders in the Midwest an opportunity to ride in qualifying competition for National and International Team opportunities with these qualifying divisions that are not available anywhere else in the Midwest. International Course Designer Jay Hambly, who is the builder for the upcoming 2020 Olympic Games, has agreed to be the course designer for the Eventing cross-country this year.





PHOTO: JOSA COMSTOCK





# VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS ARE WELCOME

The FRVPC Horse Trials is a major event and requires sponsors and many helping hands before and during its three-day schedule. Sponsorship levels offer tremendous benefits and conveniences, starting at \$1,000 and up. Students who need community service credit hours are welcome to sign up to volunteer.

For these opportunities, contact event organizers at: frvpchorsetrials@gmail.com, or call 847-494-3090. For hands-on volunteer opportunities, contact Elizabeth Curry Galvin at: volunteerfrvpc@gmail.com or reach her at 708-804-5351.

For the event schedule and more details, visit www.frvpchorsetrials.org.