

AT THE INGATE

Horse Shows in the Park, llc Newsletter—

SPOOKTACULAR EDITION!!!



In this issue:

- Oct 24-26 “Halloween Spooktacular” info
- Poppy’s Food Concession Joins the HSITP Team!!!
- The Breakfast Biscuit Cart is back....
- What does Optimum Time Jumper really mean?
- How to order Hay for delivery at the show
- 2026 Show Dates and Info
- Date of Annual Awards Banquet
- Brng the ribbons for Ribbon Buy Back!
- Baby Green Crossrails Division Added
- And more!!!

Next HSITP show is October 24-26 at The Grand Oaks Resort, just south of Ocala...enter at Horseshowsinthepark.com

Pre-entries due Sunday Oct. 19 for discounted entry fees, we have stalls available and all are permanent... we always accept post entries up to and including show days...*but pre entries are appreciated so we can build the number of arenas needed (not at the last minute) and we’re not showing til midnight!* For those who want to trailer in, shady ship in parking is available in the old Tent Paddock under the tree line (back in please) and Ship in parking also is available next to the Nupafeed Jumper ring, close to all the arenas. **Please do not park in the vendor paddock across from the Covered Arena.**

THIS IS A 3 DAY FULLY POINTED SHOW ALL 3 DAYS! Great for young horses (and/or riders) to get some valuable reasonably priced mileage. Be sure and check the updated point standings at horseshowsinthepark.com to see where you or your riders are in the year end rankings by division!

YES YOU CAN RIDE (safely) IN COSTUME ALL WEEKEND LONG!!!

LIST OF HALLOWEEN “SPOOKTACULAR” DAILY ACTIVITIES AND FEATURE CLASSES....

OVERALL:

*\$100 Award to the Best Halloween Themed barn decorated area— Judged Saturday at noon!

*Fun award to the Best Creative Scary Trick or Treat Display in the Bistro Courtyard Saturday night.

WEDNESDAY—stabling texts go out to trainers

THURSDAY—arrive to your stabling anytime after 9 am, show office opens at 10:00, and schooling opens at 1pm or as arenas are completed, until 6:30 pm. Nightwatch will be in effect for Thursday night also in addition to Friday and Saturday.

FRIDAY—classes for all divisions start in various arenas beginning at 9 am. As classes finish, the arenas will be open for schooling until 6 pm.

FRIDAY HALLOWEEN FEATURE CLASSES:

**Class sizes limited to approx. 18 horses, ribbons to 10 places. No scratch refunds. Pleasure classes to be judged 50% on manners/suitability and 50% on creativity and originality of costume

F4. Friday 2’3” Wicked Witch Jumper Classic w/jump off

F5. The Boo-tifully Fun Friday Mini Prix—18”, 2’ w/jump off

F1. “Frightfully Friday Hunter Challenge”—2’3, 2’6”, 2’9 open card until after 2’3

H1. 5:30 pm \$100 WTA Halloween Amateur “Spooktacular” 2’, 2’3, 2’6”

H2. Costumed Walk Pleasure—Age 8 under to be led at hand on horseback.

H3-6. \$100 WTA Costumed Pleasure W/Trot—Ages 8-10,11-12,13-14,15 & up

SATURDAY HALLOWEEN COSTUME CLASSES: 5:30 in the Covered Arena

All horses in Costume classes must be led with a leadrope by a handler whether ridden or not. Free entry.

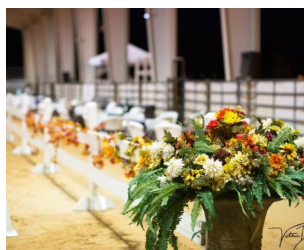
Participants must have an entry on a horse in the show.

S1. Costumed Parent Leadline—Special Prize to the Best Halloween Costumed Parent on Horseback. Bonus points for originality and performance in character....

S2.—S5. Halloween Costume Contests by Age Groups (same as Fri night) in the Covered Arena. Best Decorated Barn Dog. The most creative Halloween themed Barn Group. Sign up in the show office at check in.

2nd Annual Halloween Stick Horse Show Jumping Competition by Age Group (Free Entry) up in front of the Bistro right after the costume contests, with Monster Tunes and delightful refreshments from the Bistro’s Haunted Beer/Wine Hut!

Happy Halloween!



TABLES will be available for sponsorship and use by your barn for the 3 day Halloween show in the Covered Arena...complete with fun centerpiece!. Text 321-693-5551 with your reservation. \$100 for 3 days and can be split among your barn riders. We will set 15 tables so reserve yours now!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

WANT TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST FOR THESE HSITP NEWSLETTERS - TEXT YOUR NAME, BARN, AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO 321-693-5551 or email us at wittyshowsec@earthlink.net

We will also post them on Social Media to our 8000+ local friends.

Contact the show now to find out how your business can become a sponsor and gain amazing visibility with the right customers...our wonderful riders and families!!



AT THE INGATE

**Horse Shows in the Park, llc Newsletter—
SPOOKTACULAR EDITION!!!**



HSITP is Proud to Announce that Poppy's Food Truck is now our Food concession across from the Covered Arena for all HSITP shows...Poppy's Food Truck will be on site for all three days of our 'Halloween Spooktacular' show, right across from the Covered Arena... We received rave reviews from the first October show and many are familiar with Poppy's from their shows at the Florida Horse Park...they are a proven family and team oriented approach to providing fresh, healthy, delicious food with bountiful portions. Authentic Mexican and American fresh homemade quality, with gluten free, low carb, vegetarian and vegan options available too!!! Also offering signature lemonades, frozen margarita treats, fruit smoothies and fresh Angus cheeseburgers...I'm hungry now just typing this. Take advantage of their menu and rent one of the tables in the Covered Arena at the Halloween show...use it all 3 days (it will have your barn or sponsor's name on it) and grab a plate from Poppys to sit arenaside and enjoy!!! *If your family needs to run a tab, just see one of their capable staff so you can order away and not have to carry \$\$\$*



The Grand Oaks Bistro will be serving from 11-9 pm Thursday—Saturday and can also provide delicious take out entre's as well! Reserve a table for Saturday nights fun and eat ringside to the People Mini Prix on the Green with your barn after the Costume Contests



AND THE GREATEST NEWS OF ALL...Poppy's plans on meeting you ring or barnside to deliver hot breakfast biscuits and coffee from 8am tl 10 am...so look for the blue and white striped Golf Cart to reappear at an arena near you!!!!



TABLES are available for sponsorship at the Halloween show and use by your barn for the 3 days in the Covered Arena...complete with fun centerpiece!. Text 321-693-5551 with your reservation. \$100 for 3 days and can be split among your barn riders. We put up 15 tables so reserve yours now! Proceeds from the table rentals go toward the Halloween prizes and ribbons through 10th place



WANT TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST FOR THESE HSITP NEWSLETTERS - TEXT YOUR NAME, BARN, AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO 321-693-5551 or email us at wittyshowsec@earthlink.net

We will also post them weekly on Social Media to our 8000+ local friends. Contact the show now to find out how your business can become a sponsor and gain amazing weekly visibility with the right customers...our wonderful riders and families!!

AT THE INGATE

Horse Shows in the Park, LLC Newsletter

USEFUL INFO:

Have a question or feedback for the show? Call or text 321-693-5551. You'll reach show management and she always answers the phone, even the spam calls, sighhhhh.

- At the Grand Oaks shows, mandatory night watch is in force at \$5.00 per night by Noble Nightwatch. Nightwatch staff are trained in Large Animal Rescue and one is also an FEI steward! Don't want to arrive at o' dark thirty to feed? Hire Noble Nightwatch, call 727-420-3521
- Want hay delivered to your stall prior to your arrival at Grand Oaks? Text Kacy at 352-409-1398 for type and availability.
- You can reserve an RV spot on Grand Oaks website at thegrandoaks.com
- Rent Golf Carts by noon the Monday before each show by calling or texting Joyce at 352-233-1837

2026 HSITP SHOW DATES: ALL SHOWS ARE AT THE GRAND OAKS RESORT

- January 17-18
- February 21-22
- March 21-22
- April 11-12
- May 9-10 "Mothers Day Gala"
- June 19-21 "Battle of the Barns—Rodeo Days"
- July 18-19 "Hurricane Hunters" (& Jumpers) in the Covered Arena & Triple Crown
- October 3-4
- October 31-Nov 1 "Halloween Frightacular"
- Christmas "Holidays with Horses" Double Pointed Season Finale Dec 5-6 With Championships
- Annual Awards Christmas Gala December 18 or 19 TBD



REMAINING FALL 2025 SHOW DATES:

Grand Oaks:

October 24-26 "Halloween Spooktacular" 3 days of year end points, schooling available Thursday afternoon all arenas

November 15-16 Double Pointed!

Annual Awards Banquet Sat. Dec 6

CURRENT POINT STANDINGS for Grand Oaks as of Oct 14 are shown on the Standings page at horseshowsinthepark.com



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET IS SATURDAY DEC 6 AT THE GRAND OAKS RESORT. Major improvements to the GO Ballroom this year! State of the art audiovisual, a huge beautiful stage and more tables that seat 10 along with 6 yes, SIX new air conditioning units!!! Thanks to Grand Oaks' investment in Dinner Theater and weekly concerts/entertainment...yay!!

LOOKING FOR YOUR SHOW RECORD FOR SEMF, OR IHSA? LOOKING FOR CLASS COUNTS BEFORE/ AFTER OR AT THE SHOW? Go to our show software provider horse-showtime.com/showselector to find our show and the data we've keyed... (just one of the reasons pre entries are wonderful!) We normally post the class counts by Thursday evening before each show. The software allows you to see each horse/rider combination and what classes they're in, and what ribbons they've received. We pull the info from this software to calculate and load the points into the Excel spreadsheets. Ms. Amanda normally has this done by the Monday after each show. She is truly an Amazon of Pointskeeping...



LEADLINE!! Our leadline class is currently on Saturday and Sunday at 1pm in the Novice arena. LL1 and LL2 on the schedule—It's as close to 1pm as we can rustle everyone up for, so the family can know when to take the pictures. Look for an expanded Leadline offering in 2026 because Jeanne came back from Middleburg, Virginia this summer with some great ideas!! Leadline is always \$15 with no other fees as long as the horse/pony is registered as showing with another rider.

AT THE INGATE

Horse Shows in the Park, LLC Newsletter

USEFUL INFO:

Have a question or feedback for the show? Call or text 321-693-5551. You'll reach show management and she always answers the phone, even the spam calls, sighhhhh.

- Grand Oaks has cottages, villas and RV sites for rental during each show. Some are attached to barns, and others are freestanding. If you know your group may be attending the 2026 show year, get on Joyce's list for the right size cottage now, as often they sell out before each show.
- Fear not if you have missed a cottage on the showgrounds as there are many name brand nicely maintained hotels within 3-6 miles of the showgrounds, at competitive rates and offering the opportunity for you to use those travel rewards!! Don't forget AirBnB's and there are tons of them in the Villages, some with golf carts too!
- The Farrier present at all Grand Oaks shows is Ricky Sredl who lives nearby and can be reached at 352-636-0804

2026 HSITP SHOW DATES:

- January 17-18
- February 21-22
- March 21-22
- April 11-12
- May 9-10 "Mothers Day Gala"
- June 19-21 "Battle of the Barns—Rodeo Days"
- July 18-19 "Hurricane Hunters" (& Jumpers)
- October 3-4
- October 31-Nov 1 "Halloween Frightacular"
- Christmas "Holidays with Horses" Double Pointed Season Finale Dec 5-6
- Annual Awards Christmas Gala December 18 or 19 TBD



Confused Parent 101:

"Just what is Jumper Optimum Time? I thought they should just go fast and not knock them down..."

Well....at HSITP we utilize the USEF Optimum Time rules for our 2' and below classes in the Nupafeed Jumper arena... The following is posted on or around page 9 of every program booklet for our shows (we know many don't make it to page 9 so it's important to publish this now and again...) This is also posted on the course board at the jumper arena.

At HSITP, we score and place our Jumpers that jump Ground Poles up to 2', on the basis of "Optimum Time". This is a time that is as a result of cantering the course at an efficient speed of generally 350 meters per minute. Each course is wheeled by hand by an experienced jumper HSITP staff member, and then a stupidly complicated calculation is made to obtain the Optimum Time for that course. Per USEF guidelines, 4 seconds is then deducted from that calculated time.

Times of completion are noted by the judge during the class, and then the class is placed according to the riders who came closest to the optimum time, either higher or lower and taking into consideration any faults incurred due to downed rails.

The Optimum time approach is good for the lower fence height levels and provides an emphasis on getting to each fence accurately and efficiently, at a good even cantering pace. The world will not end if you trot the course. Sometimes in ground poles everyone trots, but the placings are consistently applied using the optimum time. We DON'T believe a "time and faults" approach works at the lower levels because it encourages dangerous, fast riding at the lower levels of rider proficiency. Now and again, our judge Shannon Rodas also provides free early morning ringside clinics prior to starting the jumper day and during the day offers immediate feedback to any rider she may feel it be of value to. We ask that parents or riders not approach the judge during the show day as the calculations can get very hectic and distractions can affect their accuracy. Instead, please don't hesitate to access show management who can interpret and/or arrange for insight from the judge at an appropriate time.



CALLING ALL MARSHALL & STERLING RIDERS... let us know if you'd like to see Marshall Sterling Classics, Jumper Classics and/or Medals offered in 2026...We could provide some lovely logo'd prizes and your points would be tracked nationally on HITS website. In the past, this has been very popular and we've qualified horses and ponies in the top 5 nationally—with a number of them competing in



Reminder—the Ribbon buy-back program is in force at each show!! Trade in your gently treasured HSITP ribbons for \$\$\$! Even if they have writing on the back now! Please bring them in on Friday or Saturday to the show office. We also buy HSITP trophies!



BABY GREEN CROSSRAILS HUNTER DIVISION ADDED TO THE TRIPLE CROWN ANNEX ARENA...

We've added a W/T Baby Green Hunter division with an Under Saddle and 3 Over Fences in the smaller Annex arena for those horses and ponies who are truly "Pea Green". This division will be added to each show.



AT THE INGATE

Horse Shows in the Park, LLC Newsletter



AROUND THE SHOWS WITH HSITP....!!



ACEA Canterbury rider

ACEA/Canterbury riders...please submit your year end award photos in .jpg or .pdf format to wittyshowsec@earthlink.net. Some photos from the show didn't save well from texts sent that Sunday.



Ava McDonnell
Canterbury Circuit Champions 2025



SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO
WITTYSHOWSEC#EARTHLINK.NET

15MG OR LESS PER EMAIL PLEASE



HORSE SHOWS IN THE PARK, LLC & HUNT COUNTRY HORSESHOWS is proud to offer the expertise and dedication of their show photographer at all HSITP shows...

KRISTENAPHOTOGRAPHY.com

A horsewoman who knows horses, and dedicated professional with her team offering show photos, candid, portrait settings, barn photos and now...videos upon request of your rounds.

kristenanchorsphoto@gmail.com

<https://www.kristenaphotography.com/horse-shows-in-the-park>

