

Join in the fun for Topsham Fair's newest winter event!

Equestrian SkiJoring Races

February 12th, 2022

Topsham State Fair ~ (32 Community Way, Topsham)

Races begin at 10:00 AM, Gates open at 9:30 AM for spectators

Admission Costs: \$5.00 per person/Max \$15 per family

SkiJoring means "ski driving" in the Norwegian language and is a popular sport in the Scandinavian countries. Today the sport is appreciated and practiced widely throughout the United States' Midwest regions.

Watch one of the winter's newest equestrian skijor team time-trial races throughout the day. Skijoring is a team time-trial race where a horse and rider pull a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 700-foot track of gates, and jumps.

Competitors will compete for swag and cash prizes.

While watching this spectacular event, warm up by the bonfire, or visit the food truck and beer tent.

Event will be held rain or shine and will run until competitors have completed their two runs.

Are you interested in participating as an individual racer or team? Registration begins January 15th! Click [here](#) for registration details!

Racer Registration

Topsham Fair's Skijor Competition will include equestrian skijor team time-trial races including a horse and rider pulling an alpine skier or snowboarder, with speeds up to 30 MPH, through a 1,000 foot course with jumps and gates.

There are two divisions of ski/snowboarder combined competitions with two age brackets, junior (10-17 years old), and adult (18+ years old). These include:

Novice – Considered to be the beginner level competitors riding horses that may not have the speed enough to be competitive in the pro division. Novice skiers/snowboarders are not expected to hit jumps.

Pro – Considered to be the highest competitors for the fastest horses. A team consists of horse, rider, and skier/snowboarder. The skier/snowboarder is expected to use the jumps included in the course.

**Cash prizes will be split between the horse rider and skier/snowboarder of the winning team

**Watch for additional prizes and swag that will be announced as they become available

An awards ceremony will be held directly following the event to announce and award the winners in each of the four competitions.

Race Entrance Fee and Terms:

\$25 per person (includes admission)

\$50 per team (includes admission)

Payment in advance to secure registration and spot in competition, sorry no refunds are available at this time.

Registration Form (<https://form.jotform.com/220268030018039>)

Rules and Regulations

Topsham Equestrian Skijor Participant Rules and Regulations

There will be a veterinarian on site with the authority to disqualify an animal for medical reasons. Any member of the organizing committee can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing.

Horses from out-of-state are required to provide a 1-year Coggins test and health certificate, per state regulations. Horses traveling in-state are required to provide a 3-year Coggins test.

Due to the nature of the event, Topsham Equestrian Skijor requires horse riders to be a minimum of 14 yo and skiers/snowboarders a minimum of 10 yo.

Sportsmanship is important to the success of the event and is a value of the Topsham Equestrian Skijor community. Please use humane treatment of your horse and be respectful of other competitors, event officials, volunteers, and spectators.

Please note that no dogs will be allowed at this event.

Divisions

There are two divisions of ski/snowboarder combined competitions with two age brackets, junior (10-17 years old), and adult (18+ years old). These include:

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Timing

Topsham Equestrian Skijor will be using chip timing to ensure the greatest accuracy. Winning time is based on the best time of two runs. Age groups and division heats will be run consecutively.

Rules and Requirements

Rules and requirements are the same for Pro and Novice divisions.

Equipment Requirements:

1. All skiers must wear approved snow sport helmets. Eye protection is recommended. If the skier is under 18, parent/ guardian must sign parental consent forms.
2. Helmets are required for riders. If the rider is under 18, parental consent form must be signed.
3. Horses must have at least two front winter shoes with studs or borium for traction. Front hoof boots with studs are also acceptable as long as they provide adequate traction. Hind shoes with traction are recommended but not required.
4. The rider must provide an approved saddle rigging consisting of a non-elastic rope loop extending no more than 6 inches from the saddle, as well as a weight-bearing carabiner. If there are any questions about what is approved, please email or ask questions at registration. Organizers may ask the rider to adjust the rigging to the approved dimensions.
5. Tow ropes will be provided by the organizers and will consist of a rope, 30-33ft in length, a quick-release shackle** equipped with a quick-release string 3-4 feet in length that can be taped to the leg, held, or tucked into the waistband. The quick-release shackle is to be attached to the carabiner on the horse rigging.
6. Protective leg boots are recommended for the horse to protect against injury from ski and snowboard edges, but are not required.]

Competition Rules:

1. A horse can not run on more than ONE team (a maximum of two runs).
2. The same team (horse, rider, skier) may only compete in ONE division.
3. Riders and skiers can compete on up to TWO teams.
 - 3.1. A rider can not use the same horse on both teams (see rule one).
 - 3.2. Skiers can not compete in more than one division.
4. It is permissible on the 2nd run of any horse in any division, for the rider to become the skier and the skier to become the rider (a switch does not create a new team).
5. Finishing the race: the skier must finish in an upright position and on at least one ski, with rope in hand when crossing the finish line. Both skier boots must cross the finish line.
6. Gates: both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed. Ski tips and ski boots must cross the horizontal plane of the gate also the vertical plane. Both skis do not need to be on the surface when passing the gate but must not cross the vertical plane, i.e. consider the gate is extended straight up to the sky; both skis must go around the imaginary gate extended to the sky.
7. If the skier drops the rope before crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed a restart, immediately.
8. The event official is authorized to pull competitors from a race if they deem the team is not fit to compete. Event official has the final decision.
9. Event organizers have the right to put age limits on divisions.
10. Competing under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Topsham Equestrian Skijor and event organizers have the final say in related matters.

Penalties

1. A five (5) second penalty is assessed for each missed jump or gate if registered for the Pro division.
2. A five (5) second penalty is assessed for each missed gate if registered for the Novice division.

All attendees must attend the orientation and instruction meeting to be held at 9:00AM the morning of the race. Final rules will be announced during this meeting.