



 **EQUINE STUDIES**

Hello ACHA National Convention Attendees,

West Virginia University Collegiate Horsemen's Association is excited to host the **2023 ACHA National Convention on April 12-15, 2023 in wild and wonderful West Virginia!** We have a host of activities planned to expand your knowledge of the horse industry, immerse you in outdoor adventure that our state is known for, and advance your professional skills over a fun four days in Morgantown, WV.

Morgantown is home to WVU and is situated just 75 miles south of Pittsburgh, PA on I-79. If you are traveling by air, your best flight options will be to fly into PIT and rent a passenger van to travel to and around Morgantown. We also have small regional airports in Morgantown (MGW) and Clarksburg (CKB), but flights and rental options will be more limited in those locations.

Lodging accommodations have been secured for the Hampton Inn & Suites at University Town Centre located conveniently off I-79. The hotel is right next door to the Lofts Conference Center that will host our delegates meeting and awards banquet. Included with your block rate is free onsite breakfast each morning. The hotel also has a pool, fitness room and outdoor fire pits.

Because West Virginia's landscape is vast and mountainous traveling across the state to horse industry tour stops would be time intensive, so we decided to bring the horses to you. We will be visiting a local farm and bringing the rest of the horse industry focused demonstrations to the JW Ruby Research Farm, home of our horse unit.

Included in this packet is the itinerary, travel, lodging, weather, attire and registration form. If you have any questions as you are planning your trip, don't hesitate to reach out.

We can't wait to have you in our home among the hills!

*Crystal Smith*

Crystal Smith, Ed.D.

Professor, Equine Studies

West Virginia University, Division of Animal & Nutritional Sciences

## **Itinerary:**

### **Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **Welcome to Morgantown**

Travel to Morgantown by 3pm

Hotel and Convention Check-In from 3:00-4:30pm

Welcome Reception at On Eagles Wings Therapeutic Horsemanship Center at 5pm

*Dinner Provided; Casual Attire*

### **Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **Wild and Wonderful West Virginia Day**

*Breakfast Provided at Hotel*

Adventure WV Outdoor Activities at University Forest from 8:30am – 3:00pm

*Lunch Provided; Dinner on Your Own; Comfortable, Athletic Wear*

### **Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **Professional Development Day and Dinner Dance**

*Breakfast Provided at Hotel*

Keynote, Panelists, Table Discussions and ACHA Annual Business Meeting at the Erickson Alumni Center from 9:00-3:00pm

*Lunch Provided; Business Professional Attire*

Dinner Dance at the JW Ruby Research Farm from 6:00-9:00pm

*Dinner Provided; Casual Attire; Bring 1 Tee Shirt Per Member for Tee Shirt Swap*

### **Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **Horse Industry Demo Day, Delegates Meeting and Awards Banquet**

*Breakfast Provided at Hotel*

Share the Saddlebred Demo with Mercer Springs Farm and Fiesta Farm, Adjunctive Therapies Demo and More at the JW Ruby Research Farm from 8:45am – 3:00pm

*Lunch Provided; Snappy Barn Attire*

Delegates Meeting at Hotel from 5:00-6:00pm

Awards Banquet at the Lofts Conference Center from 6:00-8:00pm

*Dinner Provided; Business Casual Attire*

## **Air Travel:**

### **[Pittsburgh International Airport \(PIT\)](#)**

1000 Airport Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15231

75 miles to Morgantown, WV

Best flight options, rental cars and an easy drive on interstates to WVU

70-minute commute

### [Clarksburg Regional Airport \(CKB\)](#)

2000 Aviation Way Bridgeport, WV 26330

33 miles to Morgantown, WV

Limited flight options, some rental cars and an easy drive on interstates to WVU in 35-minute commute

### **Rental Car Reservations\*:**

#### [Rental Cars at PIT](#)

Most national rental car agencies are represented at the PIT airport. Check in at rental counters on the Baggage Claim level of the Landside Terminal. It is a short walk to the pick-up and return location in the parking garage. Rental car booking options can be found at the link above.

\*We will travel by caravan to the different locations used during national convention so please have a vehicle available for your delegation. Directions will be found in the convention program you will receive at check-in.

### **Host Hotel:**

#### [Hampton Inn & Suites Morgantown/University Town Centre](#)

325 Granville Square Morgantown, WV 26501

***Book with link above to secure the convention rate of \$119/night for double queen rooms by March 12<sup>th</sup>.*** Hotel has an indoor pool, fire pits, and has free, onsite breakfast in the lobby each morning. It is also close to a variety of fast food stops, restaurants, and stores and is right off I-79 for easy access to travel to all convention locations.

### **Weather:**

Spring weather in Morgantown will either be sunny, 70 and beautiful or cloudy, 50 and potentially rainy. Bring a variety of warm layers and a good water-resistant jacket. We have indoor spaces planned in case of inclement weather, but you need a variety of attire for a mountain spring!

### **Attire:**

Casual Wear: *Jeans, Tees/Sweaters, Closed Toed Shoes/Boots*

Comfortable Athletic Wear: *Jeans/Leggings, Tees/Sweatshirts, Sneakers/Hiking Shoes*

Business Professional: *Suits, Shirts/Ties/Jackets/Pants, Dresses/Skirts/Jackets*

Snappy Barn Attire: *Jeans, Tees/Polos/Sweaters, Closed Toed Shoes/Boots*

Business Casual: *Shirts/Ties/Pants, Shirts/Pants/Dresses/Skirts*

### **Choose Your Own Adventure:**

During Wild and Wonderful West Virginia Day, we will take part in fun, low ropes team building activities in and among delegations with leaders from Adventure WV. In the afternoon you will be able to choose your own challenge. **Please list your top two preferences on the registration form for the following activities: rock climbing, high ropes alpine course, low intensity hike, or hike w/views.** The number of students we can accommodate for rock climbing and the high ropes alpine course are limited, and will be granted on a first to register, first serve basis.

### **Saddlebred Test Ride:**

Intermediate to advanced riders are welcome to sign up for a spot for a Saddlebred Test Ride during Saturday's industry tour demos. **If you can walk, posting trot, and canter confidently, weigh less than 220 pounds, and want a chance at riding a Saddlebred with instruction from world and national championship level instructors, indicate YES on your registration form.** A handful of students will be selected at random for that opportunity during convention.

### **Things to See and Do:**

Visit [WV Tourism](#) and [Visit Mountaineer Country](#) for ideas about things to see and do in the Mountain State.

Our [state](#) and [national](#) parks are primo! Coopers Rock State Park is right in our backyard, and if traveling south to go home you could hit New River Gorge National Park & Preserve along the way. West Virginia is rich in natural resources – hiking, kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, fly fishing and other outdoor activities abound for outdoorsmen of all abilities.

If we had to pick one place for you to eat while you are in Morgantown it would be [Mountain State Brewing Company](#). Our picks are any of the wood fired pizzas and don't miss out on the *Almost Heaven* Nachos.

### **To Register:**

Read the information on the following page and use the registration form linked at the back of the packet to register. **Submit your early registration by February 15<sup>th</sup> for a fee of \$250.00 per person.** The late registration fee is \$275.00 if postmarked after February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 2023 ACHA National Convention Registration Information

Hosted by West Virginia University Collegiate Horsemen's Association

April 12-15, 2023 in Morgantown, WV

### To Attend:

Students must be accompanied by an advisor and are responsible for their own lodging and ground transportation.

Students must be dues paid members of ACHA to attend and compete for individual awards (outstanding student scholarships). Clubs must be dues paid to compete for club awards (scrapbook and philanthropy challenge). If you have not yet paid ACHA dues, visit [ACHA Membership](#) to submit forms and mail dues payment to Dr. Cerny at address provided online.

**Early Registration Fee of \$250 Per Person Due by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** Late registration after Feb 15<sup>th</sup> is \$275 per person. Registration fees are non-refundable. *Note: ACHA National Officers and Advisors attend for free, but you do need to register with your school.*

### To Register:

**Step 1: Submit one registration for your school and all attendees here: [Registration Form](#).**

*Helpful tip: See information needed to complete the registration form on the last page of this packet before you start the Registration Form.*

**Step 2: Submit one check payable to 'WVU Foundation' for each school's registration (all students + advisor).** Special arrangements can be made to pay via credit/debit card and will be subject to processing fees. Contact [Crystal.Smith@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Crystal.Smith@mail.wvu.edu) for more information if you need to make a payment via card.

**Step 3: Mail payment and a copy of the completed registration form to:**

Dr. Crystal Smith

WVU Collegiate Horsemen's Assn.

PO Box 6108 Morgantown, WV 26506

### Don't Forget:

*\*Bring one tee-shirt per member for the annual tee-shirt swap!*

*\*Encourage members to apply for a national officer position! Applications should be submitted online no later than 6pm on Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> here: [ACHA National Officer Application](#).*

*\*Enter a scrapbook in the annual scrapbook contest by bringing it to Professional Development Day on Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>. Guidelines for that contest are found here: [ACHA Scrapbook Contest Guidelines](#).*

**Gather This Information Before You Submit Your Online [Registration Form](#) for each advisor  
and student attending convention.  
It will make completing the form a breeze!**

**School/Advisor Info**

Name of School:

Advisor Name:

Advisor Email:

Advisor Phone:

Tee Shirt Size: S, M, L, XL, or 2XL (Unisex Tees)

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian, Gluten Free or None

ACHA National Officers/Advisors in Your Delegation:

**Student Info**

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Tee Shirt Size: S, M, L, XL, or 2XL (Unisex Tees)

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian, Gluten Free or None

Saddlebred Test Ride: Yes or No

CYOAdventure Top Two Choices: Select First and Second Choice