



Hello ACHA National Convention Prospective Attendees!

The Tennessee Collegiate Horsemen's Association is excited to host the **2026 ACHA National Convention from March 25-28, 2026**, adjacent to the Volunteer State in the Bluegrass State! We are working hard to make sure you are in**VOL**ved in an exciting convention experience. We have a variety of activities planned to expand your knowledge of the horse industry, further develop your equine science expertise, and enhance your professional skills over four fun-filled days in Lexington, KY.

Lexington, referred to as the Horse Capital of the World, is home to countless activities, attractions, and locations to interact with the equine industry. If you're traveling by air, you can fly into **Blue Grass Airport, LEX** (15 miles), **Louisville International Airport, SDF** (77 miles), or **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, CVG** (77 miles). Rental cars are available at all airports. *As of now, we will travel by caravan to different locations during the national convention so please have a vehicle available for your delegation. Directions will be provided in the convention program you will receive at check-in. We hope to have charter buses, but for now please plan to drive or rideshare with another college/university.*

Lodging accommodations have been secured at two locations: the **Embassy Suites by Hilton Lexington/UK Coldstream** (10 rooms), and the **Clarion Hotel Conference Center Lexington North** (15 rooms). Both are centrally located to convention venues, and downtown Lexington. Your block rate includes a complimentary onsite breakfast each morning, indoor pool and fitness center, and free WI-FI.

Kentucky is renowned for its equestrian heritage and significant contributions to the horse industry. During the convention, attendees will immerse themselves in the Kentucky equine industry with tours of local racing and sport horse facilities, as well as other aspects of the local industry. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to visit world-class equine facilities, equine veterinary hospitals, and meet key leaders in the industries during the Industry Professional Development Panel and Industry Fair.

Enclosed, you'll find the itinerary, travel details, lodging information, weather expectations, attire recommendations, and the registration form. If you have any questions while planning your trip, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We can't wait to welcome you as the **Volunteers** share the **Bluegrass State!**

Lacey Johnston, MS, PAS, PCQI, US Army Reserve, DrPH Candidate
Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science
Herbert College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee



Tentative Itinerary:

Wednesday March 25th, 2026

Welcome to Lexington

Travel to Lexington by 4pm

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

Welcome Reception and Dinner 5 – 7pm

Dinner Provided; Casual Attire; Bring 1 T-Shirt/Member for T-Shirt Swap

Thursday March 26th, 2026

Exploring the Kentucky Equine Industry!

Breakfast Provided at Hotel

AM: Tours of Local Racing or Sport Horse Industry

Lunch

PM: Tours of Racing or Sport Horse Industry

Break for networking and changing for dinner if preferred

Dinner and Evening at the Kentucky Horse Park

Lunch and Dinner Provided; Snappy Barn Attire

Friday March 27th, 2026

Enhance your Equine Science Knowledge!

Breakfast Provided at Hotel

AM: Tour of Local Equine Industry

Lunch and Business Meeting

PM: Hands-on Stations and Demonstrations

Break for networking and changing for dinner and dance if preferred

Evening – Dinner and Dance Social; Advisor meeting

Lunch and Dinner Provided; Snappy Barn Attire for Tours, Business Casual Attire for Dance

Saturday March 28th, 2026

Professional & Career Development Day, Delegates Meeting and Awards Banquet

Breakfast Provided at Hotel

Delegates Meeting

AM: Industry Professional Development Panel

Coffee Break

Industry Fair with Industry Guests

Banquet and Awards Luncheon

Lunch Provided; Business Professional



Air Travel:

Blue Grass Airport (LEX)

4000 Terminal Dr, Lexington, KY 40510

15 miles to Lexington, KY

Rental car companies available: <https://www.bluegrassairport.com/rental-cars/>

Louisville International Airport (SDF)

600 Terminal Dr, Louisville, KY 40209

77 miles to Lexington, KY

Rental car companies available: <https://www.flylouisville.com/rental-cars/>

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG)

3087 Terminal Dr, Hebron, KY 41048

77 miles to Lexington, KY

Rental car companies available: <https://www.cvgairport.com/terminal-information/rental-cars/>

Group Block Hotels:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Lexington/UK Coldstream

1801 Newtown Pike,

Lexington, KY 40511

+1 859-455-5000

Booking Link: [American Collegiate Horsemen's Association](#)

Booking Code: Group Code – 500 ; Hotel Code - LEXESES

Arrival: 3/25/2026 | Departure: 3/28/2026

Rates: \$166/night + tax for a 2 Room Suite - 2 Double Beds & Sofa - Nonsmoking

Cancellation Policy: 48 hours Prior to Arrival Date

Deadline to Reserve: March 1, 2026

Clarion Hotel Conference Center Lexington North

1950 Newtown Pike

Lexington, KY, 40511

+1 859-977-9114

Booking Link: [AMERICAN COLLEGIATE HORSE](#)

Booking Code: QM89O8

Arrival: 3/25/2026 | Departure: 3/28/2026

Rates: \$105/night + tax for a 2 Double Bed Nonsmoking

Cancellation Policy: 48 hours Prior to Arrival Date

Deadline to Reserve: March 1, 2026



Weather:

Spring weather in Lexington typically ranges from lows in the 50's to highs in the 70's, with a potential chance of rain. While we will be able to do most activities in indoor settings, bring a variety of warm layers and a good water-resistant jacket.

Attire:

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

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

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

Business Casual Attire: *Shirts/Ties/Pants, Shirts/Pants/Dresses/Skirt*

Things to See and Do:

Visit <https://www.visitlex.com/things-to-do/> for ideas about things to see and do in the Lexington Area!

Attractions

The University of Kentucky Art Museum

- Website: <https://finearts.uky.edu/art-museum>

Cross Gate Gallery

- Website: <https://crossgategallery.com/>

American Saddlebred Museum

- Website: <https://www.asbmuseum.org/>

Lexington History Museum

- Website: <https://www.lexhistory.org/>

Shopping/Food

LexLive - Entertainment Center

- Website: <https://www.lexlive.com/>

Lexington Restaurant List

- Website: <https://www.visitlex.com/restaurants/all-restaurants/>

R.E. Fennell Co. - Fine Leather Goods & Horse Supplies

- Website: <https://fennells.com/>



2026 ACHA National Convention Registration Information

Hosted by the University of Tennessee Collegiate Horsemen's Association

March 25-28, 2026 in Lexington, KY

To Attend:

Early Registration is open until **Feb 15, 2026**, with a registration fee of **\$250 per person**. Any registration postmarked after February 15, 2026, will be accepted until **March 4, 2026**, for a **late registration fee of \$300 per person**. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Note: ACHA National Officers and ACHA National Advisors attend for free, but you will need to register with your school. There is a place in the registration form to note if you're a National Advisor or Officer.

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 to 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 the address provided online.

To Register:

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

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 'TN Collegiate Horsemen's Association' with a memo stating 'ACHA 2026' for each school's registration (all students + advisor). Payment must be received to confirm your registration.

Step 3: Mail payment and a copy of the completed registration form (unless completed online) to:

Tennessee Collegiate Horsemen's Assn. National Convention
2506 River Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

Don't Forget:

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



Gather This Information Before You Submit Your Online for each advisor and student attending convention. It will make completing the form a breeze!

School/Advisor Info

Name of School:

Advisor Name:

Advisor School Email:

Advisor Phone Number:

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

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian, Gluten Free or None

*If option not listed, please email ljohnst8@utk.edu with restriction

ACHA National Officers/Advisors in Your Delegation:

Student Info

Name:

School Email:

Phone Number:

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

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian, Gluten Free or None

*If option not listed, please email ljohnst8@utk.edu with restriction

Student Tour Preference (Note: We will do our best to assign attendees to their 1st choice, but space will fill in the order reserved).

*Racing Industry, Sport Horse Industry, or No Preference



Student Info

Name:

School Email:

Phone Number:

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

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