

Looking Ahead to Next Year's Boot Camps

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As we head into the NRHA Futurity & Adequan NAAC, most of us will soon be winding down the show season. Some of you are likely thinking ahead to 2018 and figuring out how to grow your skills as a green, rookie or non pro rider. We hope a Reining Boot Camp is in your future. For you show managers, affiliates and professionals, how are you going to help connect someone to the world of reining? The answer again could be a Reining Boot Camp.

Let us be upfront: we're recruiting affiliate hosts and clinicians right now for 2018. We encourage your affiliate to host one of these clinics and get your date and venue selected. It is the optimal time to put your event together, so RHF can help you attract participants. We want and need Reining Boot Camps to touch more reiners.



Boot Camps provide major fundraising for the Foundation's Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund, which helps those enduring medical hardships, accidents and disasters. Building upon the former Rookie Days program, RHF rolled out Boot Camps in 2017 with the help of presenting sponsor Classic Equine. Changes to the program include expanding to encourage non pros to participate along with green and rookie reiners and a change in format, making the mock show optional to allow for additional instruction time.

We've heard some great success stories. The Tennessee Reining Horse Association rotated participants to different maneuver "stations," giving participants the chance to learn from each of the Professionals volunteering their time. One participant went on to win a futurity just a few months after attending the clinic.

We are fully committed to growing financial support for the Crisis Fund, so we can extend more help to those in need. Since 2016, RHF has increased support for medical crises by 83 percent and doubled the awards for accidents and disasters. This will not be possible to sustain without support from across the reining world.

Thanks to NRHA's Affiliate Incentive Program and a bonus from RHF based on Boot Camp participation, the financial burden is lessened. With these incentives and local support, some affiliates grow their finances, too. Help the RHF Crisis Fund continue the story of reiners helping reiners.

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Mark Blake *Becky Jordan*

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