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Arabian Horse Association Announces Return of Distance Nationals Championship in Menahga, Minnesota

*Six Breed Organizations Unite for Premier Multi-Breed Endurance & Competitive Trail
Championship, October 2–4, 2026*

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO – July 7, 2026 - [The Arabian Horse Association](#) (AHA) proudly announces the return of the [Distance Nationals](#) Championship, taking place October 2–4, 2026, at the Huntersville Hundred ride site in Menahga, Minnesota. The event stands as the premier endurance and competitive trail riding championship in the Arabian horse industry — and the only event in the national circuit that brings this variety of breeds and level of championship competition to a single venue.

Bringing together riders and horses from across the country, Distance Nationals celebrates the unmatched stamina, athleticism and partnership that have long defined the Arabian horse breed. The championship showcases elite endurance and competitive trail competition while fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among riders of all levels.

“Distance Nationals represents the incredible versatility and heart of the Arabian horse,” said [Taryl O’Shea](#), **CEO of the Arabian Horse Association**. “These athletes, both horse and rider, embody dedication, resilience and partnership. Events like this not only honor the traditions of our sport, but also inspire future generations to experience the unique connection that makes the Arabian horse so special.”



A young rider on an Arabian horse leads the way, followed by two experienced riders, showcasing mentorship and the shared spirit of the equestrian community.

A One-of-a-Kind National Championship

Distance Nationals is a 3-day championship event featuring 100-mile and 50-mile Endurance Championships, a Competitive Trail Ride (CTR) Championship, and a 25-mile Limited Distance Championship. Six breed organizations host their championships at this single event:

- Arabian Horse Association (AHA)
- Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC)
- Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA)
- Performance Shagya-Arabian Horse Registry (PShR)
- American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA)
- Akhal-Teke Association of America (ATAA)

No other event in the country assembles this breadth of breeds or this level of championship competition under one roof.



A competitor rides into the golden hour during the AHA Distance Nationals Championship — a three-day celebration of endurance, partnership, and the Arabian horse's unmatched stamina.

2026 Championship Highlights

This year's top competition highlights include:

- 100 Mile Championship for Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian, ApHC and PShR — now held on Saturday
- 50 Mile Championship for Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian, ApHC, PFHA, AMHA, PShR and ATAA
- CTR Championship for Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian and ApHC
- Limited Distance Challenge open to all breeds
- Open Huntersville Hundred 40 Mile Competitive Trail Ride (AHA-recognized)
- Open Huntersville Hundred Limited Distance Ride, Open 50 Mile and Open 100 Mile Endurance Rides (sanctioned by AERC and AHA)

A notable change for 2026: the 100 Mile Championship and Open ride will be held on Saturday rather than Sunday, giving competitors and spectators more flexibility.

“Distance riding showcases some of the most remarkable qualities of the Arabian horse — endurance, intelligence and an unmatched willingness to partner with their rider,” said Art King, Chair of the Distance Nationals Championship. “This event is about much more than competition. It is about celebrating the dedication of our riders, the care of our horses and the passion that brings this community together year after year.”

The Arabian Horse: Built for the Distance

Known worldwide for their stamina and athletic ability, Arabian horses have excelled in endurance riding for generations. Distance is what the Arabian horse does best, and that heritage is on full display at Distance Nationals. The breed's natural love for the trail is evident throughout competition — and Arabian horses consistently lead the standings in Open Rides, a testament to the fact that the horse is purpose-built for these events.

An Open, Accessible Experience for Everyone

Distance Nationals welcomes anyone who loves horses. Every aspect of the event is open to the public, with horses and riders close up and personal. Spectators can witness the remarkable partnership between horse and rider firsthand, as well as observe the exceptional standard of equine care demonstrated by riders, ride management, and veterinarians throughout the event.

In support of the next generation of riders, juniors ride free in all non-Championship distances, lowering the barrier to participation in endurance and competitive trail riding.

Not-to-Miss Moments

Media and spectators are encouraged to attend:

- Pre-ride Veterinary Check-In (afternoon before Championships) — an intimate look at the athlete-veterinarian-rider relationship
- Start of the 50 Mile Championship
- Finish of the 50 Mile and 100 Mile Championships
- 100 Mile Best Condition Judging (morning following the 100 Mile Championship)
- Vet Checks throughout competition days
- Awards Ceremony for all National Championship Rides

The Distance Nationals Championship is expected to draw competitors, families, and Arabian horse enthusiasts from across North America and beyond. The championship is a showcase of the breed's historic strengths, a celebration of the equestrian community, and a platform for growing awareness and participation in distance riding disciplines.

About the Arabian Horse Association

[The Arabian Horse Association](#) is a full-service nonprofit breed association dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and advancement of the Arabian horse breed while supporting the breeding, competitive, and recreational interests of owners, breeders, competitors, and enthusiasts across the United States and Canada. Through nationally recognized competitions, registration services, educational initiatives, youth and community engagement programs, and official event and performance record management, the Association works to encourage participation, responsible breeding, and lifelong involvement within the Arabian horse community. The organization administers approximately **\$1 million in annual prize money** through its prestigious national events and competitive programs. In 2026, the Arabian horse community celebrates a historic milestone as the “Year of the Horse” coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the Arabian and Half-Arabian U.S. Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma. More than **1,700 horses** are expected to compete for national titles during the championship event, honoring six decades of excellence, tradition, and achievement in Arabian horse competition.