

The M'seh-weh Warrior Challenge April 2023

On April 22...The M'seh-weh Warrior Challenge is happening again! "M'seh-weh" is the Eastern Shawnee word for "horse" and, there will also be a 4 Rider Team Relay Race to start things off. It is being hosted by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe's Wellness Center. Tammy Lux is the coordinator of the event. This year the proceeds go to the Lighthouse Christian Academy.

The beautiful Eastern Shawnee Outpost Trail at 10135 South Bluejacket Road, just South of the Outpost Casino, is the site for these events. Come ride or come watch. The Relay Race will start at 9:00 a.m. and the M'seh-weh Warrior Challenge will start after they are finished.

The 4 Rider Team Relay Race idea came from watching Hunt Clubs compete at the Royal Welsh in Wales. Like a regular relay race, riders must carry a baton, run the 0.6-mile course then pass the baton to the next team member. 2 Teams compete at the same time. However, horses don't always look at obstacles like we do, so, if your horse refuses an obstacle 3 times you must return to your Team in the holding area, and at a trot, pass the Baton to the next team member. That replacement team member must go to the obstacle your horse refused, complete the rest of your course run and then do their course run. The Relay Course obstacles include gates, spear throw, bridge, mogul climb, 2 jumps, ditch, water crossing, pole weave, and creek bed. We would suggest Teams wear the same color shirts, neck bandanas, or arm bands so that spectators and our Timekeepers can tell the teams apart! The team with the overall fastest time wins!

The idea for the M'seh-weh Warrior Challenge came from the annual Tecumseh Run that the Tribe hosts, in which participants run the course and do the obstacles already present on the trail. Our idea was to do the same thing, the same obstacles, but do it riding a horse! or pony! or mule. The teams can be made up of 2-4 riders, they can choose whether they want to try for the Rachel Wright Memorial Award for the fastest time, or just ride at any pace and challenge themselves on the obstacles. This is a 7-mile course.

There are obstacles for the horses/mules/ponies to do and obstacles for the riders to do! The riders' obstacles include bow and arrow shoot, knife throw, spear throw, tomahawk throw, tire wall climb, tube negotiation, wall climb, narrow walkway, ladder climb and downhill tube slide. The horse/mule/pony obstacles include serpentine patterns, negotiation of the Three Sister moguls, 4 bridge crossings, side passing, backing into a pocket then out, and a water crossing. There will also be about 24 jumps (optional) on the course.

Our goal is to have fun!! Therefore, we are happy to again provide a "RENT-A-WARRIOR" option!! We know some riders are older.... and some are on tall horses and can't get on and off easily—as the riders must dismount to do the obstacle challenges, then remount. And also there may be some obstacles that are real challenges and they just don't want to do them—like climbing the wall! So, why not rent a Warrior to do it for you?? You can Rent-A-Warrior for any or all the rider challenges. Our Warriors are provided by the Lighthouse Christian Academy. The cost to rent a Warrior will be \$3 per obstacle.

All obstacles must be done. You can't skip any of the obstacles. So AT LEAST ONE of the team. or your RENT-A-WARRIOR must complete—or TRY to complete—each obstacle, but all team members may do them if they choose.

The Lighthouse Christian Academy volunteers will be on the grounds providing concessions for breakfast and lunch.

Kendall Scott will be the photographer on site. She is donating her time.

\$20 per TEAM for the Relay Race.

\$30 per RIDER for the M'seh-weh Warrior Challenge.

Optional RENT-A-WARRIOR \$3 per obstacle.

Online entry, liability release forms and online payment can be done and is encouraged ahead of time. I'm working on getting the link put on to my Facebook page.

Riders will need to have current Coggins papers and we suggest horses/ponies/mules be shod or wear boots.

Please feel free to call or text Tammy Lux at 417-438-1533 for more information or if you have Questions. *Tammy*