



ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17 | NOVEMBER 2019

2019 Special Olympics Equestrian Competition

On August 16, 25 of our riders participated in the Special Olympics Summer Sports Classic Equestrian Competition. Thank you to Northwest Saddle Club in North Branch for hosting the event and the Special Olympics Minnesota staff for organizing everything. There were ten teams from Minnesota totaling 89 riders competing. St. Croix Trail Blazers again had the largest team.



with 15 gold medals, 16 silver medals, nine bronze medals, 10 4th place ribbons, eight 5th place ribbons, three 6th place ribbons, two 7th place ribbons, and one 8th place ribbons.

Riders did their best, had fun, and displayed great sportsmanship. Thank you to Daniel Harjes, Jeannie Heckel, Jessica Johnson, and Willie Madline for hauling our 10 horse partners. Thank you to the volunteers and instructors who worked hard to make this another successful day. Last but not least, thank you to our families who continue to support their riders and our organization.

Riders competed in showmanship, working trail, equitation, barrels, and pole weaving. They had been practicing since the last week of May and their hard work and determination showed. Riders came home

Great Flood of '19

This year will be remembered as the wettest on record for most of Minnesota. It seemed like every week we had another big rain event that made puddles and mud everywhere. You may have noticed that the ponds along Jasmine Avenue filled up past the bottom of the duck houses and almost to the road. What happens when the ponds get that high? A culvert



under the road lets water get from one pond to the other, then our pond overflows along the driveway. During the last big rain we had a lake in the front yard of the farmhouse and a small river flowing behind the red barn. Eventually the water flows to some wetlands by the north pasture.

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MISSION

Trail Blazers mission is to provide horseback riding, training, and competitive sports opportunities to individuals with special needs in a safe learning environment through the adaptive equine experience.

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We coped with the flood as best we could. We built some temporary bridges to get people to their cars. We dug small channels to get the water moving faster, and we roped off some areas of the pasture so that the horses would not be walking through the mud.



worse flooding. We have been installing a new drainage system that should help move water from the ponds under the driveway and back toward the wetlands. Drains in the front yard of the farmhouse and behind the red barn will help keep those areas dryer. It was a big project, but

hopefully it will pay off in the spring when we won't have to drive and walk through so much water and mud!

What will happen in the spring? If there is a lot of snow this winter and rain in the spring, we could be in for some even

Turkey Trot 5K!

River Valley Athletic Club in Stillwater is hosting a Turkey Trot 5K on November 28 at 8 a.m. and have graciously chosen St. Croix Trail Blazers as the recipient of the money raised.



Thank you!!! If you or someone you know would like to join the 5K, the registration form and payment can be

taken care of at the River Valley Athletic Club front desk. Thank you also to the Weiss family for making this connection for us! We greatly appreciate the help!

When: Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Where: River Valley Athletic Club
1826 Northwestern Ave., Stillwater, MN

What: 5K Fun Run, FREE refreshments, Post-run club use

Cost: \$25 *before* November 22 **OR**
\$30 *after* November 22



*All registrants receive a
RVAC blender bottle!!*

Long-sleeved race shirts available for \$10

Why: Its great fun! And proceeds benefit:



ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS

**NON-MEMBERS, STROLLERS,
AND LEASHED DOGS ARE WELCOME!!!**

How do I register? Fill out registration form and pay at the RVAC front desk. You will receive blender bottle right away.

Make-Up Reminder



If St. Croix Trail Blazers cancels your lesson, you will have a make-up lesson. **You have 30 days to schedule that lesson with Kellie.** Please do so by email so there is a written record: kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org.

Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Party

Thurs., December 12

Email will be sent and fliers to be posted with more information.



Rider in the Spotlight: Evelyn

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Evelyn: Since 2017.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Evelyn: Vanna, Casper, and Cooper.

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Evelyn: Her favorite horse of all time was Rocky.

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Evelyn: Getting to pet and take care of the horses.

SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Evelyn: She loves dancing, singing along to her music, and art.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Evelyn: She is in dance and swimming.



SCTB: Anything you want to add?

Evelyn: Getting to come and spend time with the horses and the team at St. Croix Trail Blazers is the highlight of her week! Seeing her confidence around and ability to maneuver the horses soar these past few years has been incredible. Her core strength and agility have greatly been improved through the skills she has acquired. Thank you St. Croix Trail Blazers for

providing my daughter the opportunity to learn and grow through a sport she dearly loves!

Rider in the Spotlight: Micah

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Micah: 8 years.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Micah: Billy, Onyx, Diesel, Rowdy.

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Micah: Billy.

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Micah: Trotting.

SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Micah: Playing games on my iPad, watching movies, boating.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Micah: Skiing and golf.



Our Email Addresses

You can reach these people at their email addresses:

Karen: karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Kellie: kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Keri (treasurer):

keri@stcroixtrailblazers.org



Please remember to check your spam or junk folder for any updates from St. Croix Trail Blazers.



If you bring a new rider who joins the team, we'll give you \$50 off your next month's fee!

Rider must pass evaluation with instructor.



Special People Needing Special Horses

Contact Us



Email: karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Website: www.stcroixtrailblazers.org

Facebook: [St. Croix Trail Blazers](https://www.facebook.com/St.CroixTrailBlazers)

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St. Croix Trail Blazers is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service.

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