



# 2007 Michigan Youth Horse Racing PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*“Bringing yesterday’s tradition of horse racing back to our youth”*

Established in 2001, the Michigan Youth Horse Racing Program enables youth, ages 10 – 19 (as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of current year), to participate in the thrill and excitement of Michigan’s horse racing industry.

The program was founded around the importance of skillful, high-quality horsemanship, and the tradition of horse racing. Through this program, youth serve as representatives of Michigan’s horse racing industry and play a key role in showing community members, government officials, and industry people the importance of racing to our State.

The program has awarded over \$34,000 in purse money and prizes to 450 participants since 2001.

Youth races are held at county fairs throughout the State of Michigan. Winners are eligible to participate for the overall championship. The championship race is hosted at a premier Michigan race track.

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

-  Stimulate interest in Michigan Horse Racing
-  Educate youth about the horse racing industry
-  Enhance youth involvement with livestock

## **RACING OVERVIEW**

-  Youth races are held at fairs throughout the State
-  Winners are eligible to participate for the championship
-  Championship races are hosted at a premier Michigan race track

## **RACING SPECIFICS**

-  5 or less riders per race heat
-  Walking start
-  Races are held on the straight-away in front of the grandstand

## **ELIGIBILITY**

-  Participants must be certified
-  Youth must be between 10 and 19 years of age – as of Jan 1st
-  Two years of riding experience is required

## **SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

-  Helmets and rider safety vests must be worn by participants
-  Safety equipment is provided by the State of Michigan

## **CERTIFICATION CLINICS**

-  Certification clinics are held prior to the race
-  Each race participant and horse team must be certified in the current race year
-  Riders are certified on their ability to safely handle their horse



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## ENTRY PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

-  Complete Participant Information & Emergency Form and Sign Liability Waiver
-  Pay entry fee (\$15.00)
-  Provide current negative Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test papers
-  Provide certification card

## RACE LOCATIONS IN 2006

-  Lake Odessa Civic & Agricultural Association fair– Lake Odessa  
To be determined
-  Isabella County Youth & Farm Fair – Mt. Pleasant  
To be determined
-  Iosco County Agricultural Society fair – Hale  
To be determined
-  Marquette County Fair – Marquette  
To be determined
-  Dickinson County Fair – Norway  
To be determined
-  Championship Race – Mt. Pleasant Meadows  
To be determined

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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