



# Keeping the tradition alive

## Information for Organizers

The purpose of this event is to have a lovely, enjoyable drive in the "Sporting" tradition. Over the course of the three phases, each driver will attempt to come as close to a perfect score of 100 as possible.

As the organizer of a Sporting Day of Traditional Driving, you are encouraged to develop an event that fits your specific conditions, in terms of location, weather, terrain, vehicles that will attend, types of horses/ponies, drivers' abilities, number of volunteers, etc. For specific information on the Sporting Day and its three phases, please read the CAA's general guidelines. In addition, we've compiled some information here that may help you in developing your own particular Sporting Day.

A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving can easily be adapted to a theme (picnic, holiday, centennial, sleigh rally, etc.). If this is something you want to try, ask your drivers to turn out accordingly, and ask your Turnout Inspection judge(s) to include a score for adherence to theme in the category for overall impression.

## Venue Suggestions

*Private farm or ranch.* In order to be used by carriages, the trails/roads on the property must be wide enough for a car. Bear in mind that the property owner need not be a carriage driver. If this is the case, try approaching the owner and explaining this lovely event; inviting the owner to ride on one of the carriages may help gain access. You may even suggest that the property owner may want to invite friends for a "tailgating party" to watch the carriage drive.

*Small town/city center, square, or historic district.* Historic and neighborhood organizations are often looking for ways to promote and publicize their town or area. Approach the chamber of commerce or a similar body and explain the event, showing photographs of traditional turnouts.

*Historic sites/museums.* Traditional driving turnouts are a natural way to create additional public exposure for these institutions, which are always looking for fundraising and publicity opportunities. Approach the curator or the public relations department and explain the event, showing photographs.



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*State parks.* Approach the park director and explain the event, making sure the director understands that drivers will use roads, not hiking trails, and will follow a marked route. Offer clean up both on the roads and in the parking area. Remember that permit fees are usually necessary for each guest. The park may wish to schedule some sort of special event in conjunction with the drive to advertise and encourage park use.

## The Turnout Inspection

For specific information on the Turnout Inspection, please refer to the general guidelines and the score sheets.

Because the Turnout Inspection is worth 50 of the overall 100 points, it is important to have a knowledgeable judge, and it's even better to have two or three judges. A Turnout Inspection judge need not be approved by any official sanctioning organization. The judge should, however, be familiar with traditional carriages, harness used for all the varieties of turnouts in the event, reinsmanship ability, and safety. For additional reference, please refer your Turnout Inspection judges to the recommended-reading list at the end of these guidelines.

For purposes of judging the Turnout Inspection, it is recommended that you have a flat, open area available, ideally with space for spectators as well. Each turnout can be judged there at the halt and on the move (driving in a circle or trotting toward and away from the judge).

If novice drivers will be attending your Sporting Day, plan an explanatory meeting and request that a capable passenger be available on each carriage. An explanation of correct driving styles according to the vehicle being driven may be necessary for these drivers. Always remember: the intent is to enjoy the drive, not to intimidate the drivers.

## The Country Drive

For specific information on the Country Drive and Drivers' Tests, please refer to the general guidelines and the score sheets.

When planning the length and route of the Country Drive, take into account the expected temperature and humidity, the elevation and steepness of the terrain, and the



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speed and time frame for executing it. This is not a race and should be a pleasurable event for everyone involved.

If large or heavy vehicles (coaches, hitch wagons, coachman-driven carriages) are expected at the event, a shorter, more level and firm surfaced route may be needed. Remember that a Sporting Day of Traditional Driving will allow drivers to use carriages that are rarely used at other events.

If draft horses, very small equines (VSEs), or donkeys are expected, you may want to plan a shorter route, with slower times.

The general order of the three phases is 1) Turnout Inspection, 2) Country Drive (with Drivers' Tests), and then 3) Cones Course. If time or space is limited, a short Cones Course can also be incorporated into the Country Drive instead of being held as a separate phase. The details of the phases, and the order in which they are run, can also be rearranged to fit the specific conditions of your event (weather, terrain, types of vehicles in attendance, types and sizes of equines in attendance, drivers' abilities, numbers of judges and volunteers available, etc.).

If the group of volunteers to judge Drivers' Tests is small, consider having fewer tests. Explain to the Drivers' Test judges, both in person and in writing, exactly what is expected and what constitutes pass/fail.

Some suggestions for Drivers' Tests (also see the list in the general guidelines):

- Stopping with the horse's nose or the hub of the front wheel at a road cone for five seconds.
- Driving a circle in an intersection.
- Executing a whip salute.
- Signaling and executing a turn.
- Driving a U-turn through rails laid on the ground.
- Driving a figure-8 indicated by cones.
- Halting, unloading a passenger, driving through a gate or set of cones and halting to pick up the passenger.
- Stopping to pick up an item that a volunteer is holding (a groom or passenger can easily take the item while the driver just halts the turnout).
- Halting for five seconds in a "box" created with cones at each corner, backing two or three steps, returning to the original position, and halting for five more seconds.



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- See the general Sporting Day guidelines for other test suggestions or, better yet, create your own! Almost anything you can dream up is suitable, as long as it's safe for everyone involved.

## Checklists for Organizers

### *Equipment you may need for the Turnout Inspection:*

- Chairs (1 per judge)
- Table (with umbrella for shade or rain)
- Clipboards and pencils (1 per judge)
- Forms: Turnout Inspection Score Sheets (1 per driver for each judge) and Carriage Measurement Sheet
- Measuring tape or measuring stick for wheel tread width and length between axles
- Coffee, doughnuts, water, soft drinks, etc.
- Cooler & ice
- Restroom / portable toilet facilities
- Garbage can

### *Equipment you may need for the Country Drive:*

- Chairs (1 per judge for Drivers' Tests and 1 per observer on the Country Drive)
- Umbrellas for shade or rain (1 per judge / observer)
- Clipboards and pencils (1 per judge, 1 for "start," and one for "finish")
- Maps or direction sheets (1 per driver)
- Large map posted near trailers
- Mandatory gate markers (1 red and 1 white for each gate; red and white plastic disposable plates work well)
- Directional arrows
- Forms: Country Drive Time Sheets (for timer at "start" and timer at "finish") and Drivers' Test Pass/Fail Sheet (for test judges)
- Watches with time correlated for "start" and "finish" (2)
- Walkie talkies
- Cones for Drivers' Tests (if needed)

### *Equipment you may need for the Cones Course:*

- Chairs (1 per judge and 1 per timer)



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- Umbrellas for shade or rain (1 per judge or timer)
- Measuring wheel (for course)
- Measuring stick or tape (to determine the correct width between cones)
- Clipboards and pencils
- Stopwatches (2)
- Bell or whistle for the starter
- Cones (20 or fewer)
- Balls (1 per cone)
- Map of Cones Course posted or a map for each driver
- Numbers for cones (not mandatory)
- Forms: Cones Course Score Sheets

### *Signage you may need for your Sporting Day:*

- Parking (for horse trailers, etc.)
- Parking (for spectators)
- Turnout Inspection Area
- Country Drive: Start; Drivers' Test 1, etc. (1 per test); and Finish
- Cones Area

### *Equipment you may need for your scorer:*

- Table and chair in a quiet spot
- Pencils
- Calculator

### *Equipment you may need for your announcer (if you have one):*

- Umbrella table
- Chairs (2)
- Sound system
- Microphone

### *Awards you may want to present:*

- Participation award for each driver (this can be as simple as a "goodie bag" with carrots, hard candy, handy wipes, etc.)
- Class / division winner (1 for the driver with the highest score in each)
- Overall winner (1 for the driver with the highest score in the event—if desired)



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*Items you may want to include in "goodie bags" for your judges and volunteers:*

- Hard candy
- Handy wipes
- Lip balm
- Sun screen
- Water

*Volunteer positions you may need:*

- For the Turnout Inspection:
  - Someone to measure carriage wheel treads (axle width) and length between axles
  - Header
- For the Country Drive:
  - Start (1)
  - Finish (1)
  - Drivers' Test judges (1 per test location)
  - Observers on route (as needed)
- For the Cones Course:
  - Start (1)
  - Finish (1)
  - Setters (1 or more)
  - Warm up / holding area (1)
- Scorer
- Announcer
- Someone to help the announcer (if you have one)
- Someone to direct traffic in the parking area(s)
- Someone in charge of the awards
- Someone in charge of preparing / distributing coffee, water, lunches, and snacks for your judges and volunteers

*The drivers' packets should contain the following information:*

- Copy of the general guidelines for a Sporting Day of Traditional Driving
- Welcome letter with information on where to find food, restrooms, the drivers' meeting, etc.
- Schedule of events for the day
- Map of the area, showing parking; the location of the Turnout Inspection, Country



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- Drive, and Cones Course; and where the awards ceremony (if there is to be one) will be held
- Map of the Country Drive, or directions
- Map of the Cones Course, or the location of the posted map
- Order of go

*The volunteers' packets should contain the following information:*

- Copy of the general guidelines for a Sporting Day of Traditional Driving
- Welcome letter with information on where to find food, restrooms, the drivers' meeting, etc.
- Schedule of events for the day
- Map of the area, showing parking; the location of the Turnout Inspection, Country Drive, and Cones Course; and where the awards ceremony (if there is to be one) will be held
- Map of the Country Drive, or directions
- Map of the Cones Course, or the location of the posted map
- Explanation of the job each particular volunteer is being asked to do
- Name and location of a person who can answer any questions

## To-Do Lists for Organizers

*Six to three months before the Sporting Day:*

- Secure judge(s)
- Secure venue
- Announce date to potential drivers

*Two months before:*

- Begin publicity in local newspapers, driving-club newsletters, other media
- Plan and map the arrangement of the event grounds
- Secure volunteers
- Send out entry forms, with a copy of the general Sporting Day guidelines
- Plan awards

*One month before:*

- Plan and map the Country Drive
- Plan the Drivers' Tests and obtain test judges



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- Design the Cones Course
- Prepare any needed signage
- Decide on and obtain equipment

## *Two weeks before:*

- Prepare the volunteers' packets (mail unless they're being handed that day)
- Prepage the drivers' packets (mail unless they're being handed that day)
- Prepare "goodie" bags

## *One week before:*

- Prepare the order of go
- Complete the drivers' packets

## *Two days before:*

- Start setting up any large equipment
- Position signage (if on private property)

## *One day before:*

- Mark the Country Drive (if on private property)
- Set the Cones Course
- Set up any small equipment
- Begin food/beverage setup

## *Event day:*

- Position signage (if on public property)
- Mark the Country Drive (if on public property)
- Complete the food/beverage setup
- Have drivers' and volunteers' packets available (if they weren't mailed previously)
- Hold meetings for volunteers and drivers
- Have a safe, enjoyable Sporting Day of Traditional Driving!

## *After the event:*

- If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think should be added to a future edition of these guidelines, please send them to the CAA office.  
(3915 Jay Trump Rd., Lexington KY 40511; e-mail: [info@caaonline.com](mailto:info@caaonline.com))





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## Recommended-Reading List

These modern books and pamphlets (all in print now and all available from the CAA) may be beneficial to you, your volunteers, and the participants in your Sporting Day:

- *The Art of Driving*, by Max Pape
- CAA Guides to Turnout and Appointments, edited by Tom Ryder
  - #1: Long Island Carts (Meadowbrooks) & Runabouts
  - #2: Dog-cart Phaeton & American Trap
  - #3: Park Drag & Private Coach
  - #4: Livery
  - #5: Carriage & Harness Care
  - Definitions
- *Carriage Terminology*, by Don Berkebile
- *Drive Smartly . . . Drive Safely*
- *The Essential Guide to Carriage Driving*, by Robyn Cuffey & Jaye-Allison Winkel
- *The Hungarian Driving Style*, by Tibor Petko-Szandtner
- *Make the Most of Carriage Driving*, by Vivian & Richard Ellis and Joy Claxton
- *A Manual of Coaching* (2006 reprint of the original 1901 volume), by Fairman Rogers
- *Notes on Coaching*, by Tom Ryder
- *On the Box Seat: A Manual of Driving*, by Tom Ryder
- *The Principles of Driving*, by the German National Equestrian Federation