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Photos Available

Certified Horsemanship Association Instructor Certification to be Held Immediately Following Annual Conference

Tyler, TX (July 2005) – This year immediately following the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) International Conference in Auburn, Washington, September 22 – 25, is a five-day instructor certification clinic to be held in Stanwood, WA, September 25 - 30.

So why get certified as an instructor? It is not mandatory here in the United States as it is in many countries in Europe. However, as our industry becomes more accustomed to certification of riding instructors and facilities being accredited, clients are going to look for those that are. Benefits also include insurance discounts, marketing, product discounts with major sponsors and many others.

“CHA instructor certification clinics are a great way to gain valuable professional credentials, validate your knowledge and share ideas with other industry professionals on teaching techniques and industry standards,” says CHA Program Director Julie Goodnight. “Plus it’s a great way to network and make life-long friends!”

CHA Instructor Certification includes:

- Instructors may earn certification in both English and Western at all ability levels at their first clinic.
- Certifications are issued at the end of the clinic.
- Certification clinic involves a hands-on program including the participants taking a written test, doing a riding evaluation, and teaching lessons. Participants are given immediate feedback about their teaching skills after each lesson. During the clinic, seminars are conducted by clinic staff on teaching techniques, risk management, herd management, professionalism and industry standards.

- CHA is the largest and oldest certification program in the U.S., being founded in 1967.
- Focus is on safety and effectiveness in teaching groups of riders.
- Style and techniques used in teaching are not mandated by CHA, just that lessons are safe, fun and effective.
- Cost of the certification clinic listed above is only \$650 which includes all certification fees, membership to CHA for a year, manuals, horses and equipment, and all meals and lodging.
- Certification is valid for three years with a current CHA membership each year. 25 hours of continuing education are required to maintain certification after the three year time frame.

The mission of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of individuals and group riding programs. CHA certifies instructors and trail guides, accredits equestrian facilities and provides support and educational resources. For more information on the Certified Horsemanship Association and to register for the annual conference or the National Clinic listed above, please visit www.cha-ahse.org, email cparker@cha-ahse.org or call toll free 800-399-0138.

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