

The Horse Warriors Program

Central Montana Reined Cowhorse Association (CMRCHA)

Program Overview

The Horse Warriors is a program created to recognize and support members of the military and first responder communities who have found purpose, healing, and connection through horses.

Many individuals who have served their communities and country whether in the military, law enforcement, fire service, or emergency response carry with them the physical and emotional challenges that can come with service. For some, the journey toward wellness has been strengthened through their connection with horses and the horse community.

As one servicemember expressed simply:
“We were saved by the horse.”

In response to interest from one of our members and input from others, the CMRCHA Board of Directors developed the **Horse Warriors Program**. The goal is to recognize the service and sacrifices of these individuals while creating an environment of camaraderie, respect, and shared experience within the CMRCHA community.

Rather than creating a separate competitive class, the program will operate as a side-pot program, allowing participants to compete within existing NRCHA-approved classes while also being recognized within the Horse Warriors group.

Program Objectives

The Horse Warriors program aims to:

- Recognize and honor military personnel and first responders within the CMRCHA community
 - Encourage participation in reined cow horse competition
 - Foster camaraderie and mutual support among participants
- Highlight the positive role horses can play in personal wellness and recovery
- Provide opportunities for participants to share their stories and experiences with the broader horse community

Eligibility

Participation in the Horse Warriors program is open to individuals who meet one of the following criteria:

- **Active duty or veteran military personnel** (proof of service may be requested)
- **Current or former first responders**, including:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Firefighters
 - Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
 - Paramedics
 - Other recognized emergency response professionals

Participants must also be current members of CMRCHA.

Competition Format

Horse Warriors participants will compete within the standard CMRCHA show structure.

1. Participants must enter and compete in any NRCHA-approved class offered at a CMRCHA show.
2. All normal entry fees and show rules apply.
3. Scores from the combined reining and cow work portions of the class will be tracked.
4. Placings will be recorded and points awarded using the same system used for CMRCHA year-end awards.
5. Horse Warriors standings will be tracked separately as a side-pot competition among eligible participants.

This format allows participants to compete fully within the association while also sharing an additional competitive and supportive experience with fellow Horse Warriors.

Entry Fee and Funds

Participation in the Horse Warriors program requires a **one-time entry fee of \$50**.

Funds collected will be held by CMRCHA and designated for use by the Horse Warriors group for purposes they deem appropriate and beneficial to the program.

Additional sponsorships or donations may be accepted if designated specifically for the Horse Warriors program.

Recognition Opportunities

CMRCHA may provide opportunities for Horse Warriors participants to be recognized during events at their request. These opportunities may include:

- Introductions during shows
- Special acknowledgements of service
- Participation in color presentations or opening ceremonies
- Sharing their experiences with the membership and public

These opportunities are intended to highlight both the admirable service of these individuals and the positive role horses play in their lives.

Contact Information

For more information or to join the Horse Warriors program, please contact:

Dean Barent
307-431-6689

Dave Clark
307-349-0551