

Outdoor



Loyalty

Equestrian Riders as Athlete/Outdoorists...

In an earlier OutdoorLoyalty Blog, entitled “Is An Outdoorist an Athlete?”, we searched both Merriam/Webster and Wikipedia for the definition of the word “Athlete” and both dictionaries defined it in fairly sparse terminology. Thus comparing an “Equestrian” to an “Outdoorist” may find similarities and possibly a symbiotic relationship. That being said, what is the definition of an “Equestrian”?

Merriam/Webster Dictionary- “Of relating to or featuring horseback riding” pertaining to Olympic Equestrian Events.

Wikipedia- “Horseback riding”. (That’s all folks)...



In the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, Olympic Equestrian Disciplines were introduced to the World and, to this day, continue as an event in the Olympics. There are 3 phases of “The Event”, as they are referred to by equestrians, which are Dressage, Eventing (referred to now as Cross Country) and Jumping (referred to now as Stadium or Show Jumping). Unique to all other Olympic Sporting Events, Equestrian Disciplines are gender neutral. Men and Women compete equally to one another in the events.

So, isn’t horseback riding about 80% the horse and the remaining 20% the rider? When you present that question to an equestrian, at all levels of accomplishment, make sure you have something between them and yourself. That seems to be the impression of the uninformed that a horseback rider’s goal is just to remain in the saddle. The reality is that equestrian riders are in constant communications with their horse at all times while riding, especially, in the performance of horse and rider, during “The Three Day Event”. Every muscle and appendage of the rider is constantly “talking” to their horse preparing them for every obstacle in the jumping events and what stride, turn, gait and course pattern in the Dressage Event. And of course the rider must not show any of that communications to the judges while on the course. Still want to ask that question?

At this juncture of the blog, you are probably wondering “How does this content relate to OutdoorLoyalty”? Well, the premise of this blog is determining whether or not Equestrian Riders are truly a Athlete/Outdoorist...We all agree that horseback riders are Outdoor Activists, and their level of competition, reaches to the pinnacle of sports, The Olympics, and

should be recognized as true athletes.

Equestrians, by definition, are horseback riders in such events as Calf Roping, Bronco Busting, Barrel Racing in the broad category of “Western Riders”, and in such events as Eventers, Jumpers, Hunters and Polo Players are in the category of “English Riders”. All horseback riders are trail riders, but not particularly in your image of a pleasure ride on some rolling hillside. Trail Riding is actually part of the overall training and conditioning routine for horse and rider so as to be able to compete in the specific events they ride in competitively.

OutdoorLoyalty.com truly embraces Horseback Riders as Outdoorist/Athletes. That community has over 7,000,000 equestrians and they should all be recognized as Outdoor Athletes. Their accomplishments and honors attained should be recognized by the Outdoor Industry as in “Points for Participation”.

Below is an Article showing the evolution of the Eventing Sport from Military Training and Action to the World Olympics...

<http://www.discovereventing.com/?q=node/67>

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