



## Media Fact Sheet

- OHSET: Oregon High School Equestrian Teams
  - [www.ohset.com](http://www.ohset.com)
  - State Chair: Candi Bothum [cbothum@OHSET.com](mailto:cbothum@OHSET.com)
  - Vice Chair: Scott Chauncey [Schauncey@OHSET.com](mailto:Schauncey@OHSET.com)
  - A complete list of state and district officers can be found on our website under the “Contact” tab
  - Follow us on Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and Twitter
- Founded in 1993 in Southern Oregon
  - Was originally called Southern Oregon High School Equestrian Teams
  - Founded in cooperation with Oregon Horseman Association
- OHSET has directly helped 3 states start a High School Equestrian Team program
  - While Washington prepared to start their own program, they participated as a “district” in the OHSET program
  - There are currently over 15 State organized High School equestrian teams across the United States
    - Of those programs OHSET is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest running organization
- OHSET has as its mission: Oregon High School Equestrian Teams is dedicated to promoting and organizing equestrian competition in high school athletic or activity programs. It is our main goal to provide an opportunity to achieve that recognition in a fair, positive, and educational format. The goals are to encourage team play, peer acceptance, good horsemanship, and to have cooperative adult supervised leadership for all students in grades 9-12.
- Participation: All high schools in the U.S.A. are eligible to form a team and join the OHSET organization.
  - OHSET is currently divided into 8 geographical districts: Central, North East, North Valley, North West, South Valley, Southern, Tri-River Valley, and Willamette
- Each district holds 3 district meets where athletes compete to qualify for district year end awards, and state qualification
- The State Championship Meet is Presented by Coastal Farm and Ranch, and held the second weekend in May at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, OR
  - Athletes placing in the top 5 at the state championships earn the right to compete against athletes from WAHSET (Washington High School Equestrian Teams)
- The OHSET season runs from November 1 until the Pacific North West Invitational Championship (PNWIC) which is held in June and alternates between Oregon and Washington.
- Since its inception, many OHSET athletes have gone on to participate (many on full scholarship) on Collegiate Equestrian Teams including: Oregon State University,



University of Oregon, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M, Fresno State, Eastern Oregon University, Blue Mountain Community College, Linn Benton Community College, Washington State University, University of Washington, Boise State, and many more

- OHSET is a 501c3 organization, and is facilitated by volunteer, coaches, officers, and board members in addition to generous sponsorships from community businesses and individuals
- Each year as many as 1,100 high school youth compete in OHSET representing their high school, and most high schools award varsity letters to OHSET youth who qualify throughout the season
- Over a 100 high schools throughout Oregon have or have had teams in OHSET, and countless others co-op teams with other schools to allow their students to participate.
- For many OHSET athletes, this is the only “School Sport” they participate in. This participation in turn provides the student with a deeper connection to their school, statistically raises probability for graduation, and lowers high risk behaviors by the athlete.
- Most traditional equine sports are set up to judge and reward individual efforts. One of OHSET’s greatest assets is the team environment in which we compete. OHSET offers individual and team events, as well as individual and team high point awards. Youth are recognized not only for their individual accomplishments as is normal in the equestrian world, but also have the opportunity to compete for team event and team high point awards
- While participation in OHSET is open to all youth regardless of skill or ability, youth are monitored closely for safety and may be restricted in certain event participation in order to keep all participating athletes safe.
  - Youth may participate in OHSET without owning a horse. Many teams offer a “Groom” position(s) for youth who either choose not to compete, or do not have access to a horse. Many athletes lease the horse they compete on, and youth may share horses (some restrictions do apply)
- As with any sport, OHSET athletes face considerable expenses throughout the competition and off seasons. Many athletes, teams, and districts plan fundraisers to help off-set the out of pocket individual expense. While specific fundraising guidelines do apply, a significant portion of the expenses can be covered through donations and sponsorships. Local coaches and District officers are the best resource for suggestions and information regarding sponsorships and donations.