

A copy of this guide will be given to each chaperone upon arrival.



# Roses and Riders

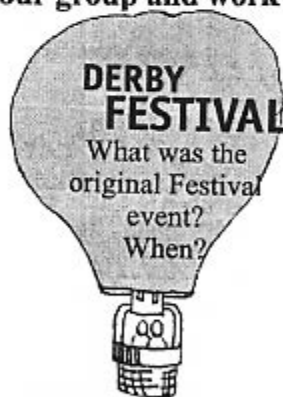
## CHAPERONE GUIDE

This guide will help you engage students while touring the exhibits. *The information the students should be locating is shown in italics.* Please move in the order shown adjusting for where you begin.



**STARTING GATE**

**While in the exhibit area please ensure students walk, use stairs, stay with your group and work on the activities. No food, drink or gum in exhibits.**



### Derby Festival

The Kentucky Derby Festival is one of the largest community celebrations in the world. *It began in 1956; the first event was the Pegasus Parade.*

- Discuss festival events students have attended. Which were most memorable, or their favorite?

### Derby Traditions

*Tradition seen is Derby Hats and heard is singing "My Old Kentucky Home" (Derby glasses are a collectable).*

- Compare hats in the Derby hats exhibit; notice common decorations. Remind students that once it was fashionable to wear hats everywhere, even for men.
- Think about how people collect Derby glasses. Ask students about any collectable items or keepsakes they have from places they have gone.





### **Winner's Circle**

This exhibit recreates the Winner's Circle as it looked on Derby Day. Notice the preserved Garland and how the freeze-drying process affects it. *There are 564 roses sewn into the Garland. The oldest Gold Cup in the case was presented in 1925.*

- The Derby trophy is the only one in American sports made from gold. The first was given in 1924 but it was stolen and probably melted down.
- Notice the different styles of trophies. What other uses might some of them have? Also look for unusual decorations, like coins, angels and flamingos!

### **Silks Case**

These are reproductions of famous Derby-winning silks. Silks are designed by the owner of the horse. *Racing colors were first used in chariot races in Rome.*

- Find the famous silks from our record-holder, Secretariat.
- Ask students to think about what colors and shapes they would use to design a silk, and why they would choose them.

### **Life on the Farm**

Begin with the birth of the foal and move counter-clockwise around the barn to see important events in the young horses' life: *horse is foaled, is registered, is named, first birthday, goes to auction, gets first rider.*



- Notice what the horse eats and how the quantity increases in 15 months. (grains shown are oaks and sweet feed, which is sweetened by molasses.)
- Notice the rules on naming a horse; try to come up with a good name.

### **Thoroughbred in Motion**

*A racehorse can run almost 40 mph, covers 63 feet in 1.07 seconds, running on no more than two legs.*



- Study the panels on the wall to see the positions a horse's legs are in when running, then "watch Secretariat run". These horses weigh 1000-1200 lbs. p
- The three-sided exhibit explains how the track feels to the horse. Ideally the moisture level is "just right", but a track that is too dry can be worse than one that is too wet. Notice how they keep moisture in the track on a hot, dry day.



### Jockey

Jockeys are great athletes with very difficult jobs. They must be very small but also very strong. *The three pieces of safety equipment are the helmet, goggles and vest.*

- Think about skills they must have (balance, coordination, flexibility, strength) and compare with other athletes.
- As students step onto the scale remind them that the jockey holds the saddle and equipment when weighed.

### Walk on the Backside

The panels and cases along the wall will demonstrate some of the people that are important in caring for the horse. It is a "team effort". *Matching: farrier(B), groom(E), trainer(D), hotwalker(A), veterinarian(C).*



- Compare items in the veterinarian and farrier cases to find items similar to things that we use.

### Timeline

*The Derby was first run in 1875. Calumet Farm won the Derby 8 times (mostly in 1940s and 1950s).*

- Have students find the Derby winner from their birth year. Note other local and national events that occurred that year.
- Find the interesting things that occurred in 1891, 1901, 1928, 1956 and 1969.

### Winner's Pyramid

This exhibit illustrates just how hard it is to get a horse into the Derby. *About 35,000 baby racehorses are born each year, no more than 20 run in the Derby.*



- Are there other sporting events where the athlete only gets one chance?

### Flag

This flag was discovered in the Twin Spires during some renovation work. *It probably flew from the Twin Spires. If made in 1905 it would have 46 stars.*

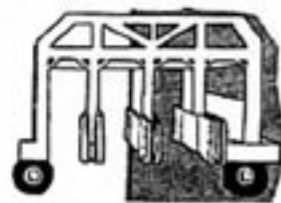
- Encourage students to imagine how big the original flag would have been.

## UPPER LEVEL

### Starting Gate

This is a real starting gate *that was used in 17 Derbies.*

- Tell students it takes only three strides for the horse to reach full speed. What might a jockey be thinking about in the gate while waiting for the race to begin?
- How would races would have started before this style of gate?  
(There was a gate with no doors, so men would still hold and release the horses; before that a web barrier would spring up from in front of the horses; prior to that horses would just be circled and steadied on the track.)



### Hall of Champions

This exhibits honors owners, trainers and jockeys that have won three or more Derbies, along with Triple Crown winners. *Lord Derby began the original Derby in 1780 in England.*

- Notice the 11 Triple Crown winners. To win these three races for young horses in just five weeks is one of the most difficult challenges in sports (Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes in Maryland, Belmont Stakes in NY).
- Have students look in the cases and try to decide what the most valuable item would be (Andy Warhol painting of jockey Bill Shoemaker).



### African Americans in Thoroughbred Racing

African Americans played an important role in the early years of the Derby, winning 15 of the first 28 Derbies. *Isaac Murphy won the Derby 3 times; Jimmy Winkfield was the last African American jockey to win the Derby.*

- Find the purse. Explain that in the early years a man would hold up the purse and the winning jockey would grab it after passing the finish line. Isaac Murphy "grabbed" this purse in the 1891 Derby. Compare the winner's share then to the \$1,240,000 now guaranteed to the winner.

### International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame

Watch the video to see a farrier at work. *Horseshoeing goes back to ancient Persia and Egypt; made from grass and reeds.*

- Note that a horse's hoof is like our fingernail. A cracked hoof is very sore. A horse wears shoes to protect its hooves.



**CONTINUE DOWNSTAIRS at the LOBBY STARTING GATE**