



# *Proteus Award*

## *Rules and Guidelines*

### *Proteus Award For The Most Versatile Horse And Rider*



**P**roteus, according to classical mythology, was a sea god, son of Oceanus and Tethys, noted for his ability to assume forms and to prophesy. The term Proteus, according to dictionaries, can be applied to a “person or thing that readily changes appearance, character, principles, etc.” (Random House unabridged dictionary). The CHS *Proteus Award* is given each year to the horse and rider/driver team that demonstrates the greatest versatility.

This annual competition is very important to CHS. It encourages competitors to experience the widest range of activities with their horses and furthers CHS’ objectives of promoting equine events and the education of area horse enthusiasts. CHS encourages everyone from the novice to the most experienced riders to compete. We expect a wide range of activities and performance in this kind of competition.

The following guidelines and suggestions are provided to help you begin your *Proteus* program.

1. The idea is that the horse/rider team earns one point for participation in each type of activity (see score sheets), with no duplication of the same type of activity unless one is a CHS activity and the other is a non-CHS activity. For example, a team could earn 1 point for a CHS Pleasure Ride, one point for a BES Pleasure Ride and one point for a USTR Pleasure Ride for a maximum of three points. No more than three points will be given for any one event (i.e., even though you may enter five or six classes at a given show, only three will count towards *Proteus*). (One certificate per point.)
2. In keeping with the true meaning of the *Proteus* Program (i.e., versatility), each entry must have points in at least **3 different categories** to be eligible for a *Proteus* Award.
3. All events submitted for consideration must be organized, sponsored, or requested by a legitimate organization or community group, unless a truly unique activity.. In such cases, the burden of proof lies wholly on the rider to explain and document the activity and justify its consideration by the judges. Pictures are always welcome and can be quite helpful. Including a prize list/brochure/info sheet for the activity is also useful.
4. The judges reserve the right to disqualify entries not submitted on a copy of the *Proteus Award Certificate*. Please make many copies in advance so you will not run out. (One certificate per point.) **The name of the sponsoring organization and signature are mandatory.**
5. To earn a whole point, an event must be completed. If you attempt an event but do not complete it, you earn one-half point.
6. To qualify for an overnight event point, the overnight must be a sanctioned option offered by an organized event. The team may also earn a separate point for the accompanying event.
7. For lessons and clinics, a point may be earned for each different type of lesson or clinic; e.g., polo, driving, sidesaddle, lunging, etc. Lessons must be *different*. For example, this means if you are doing multiple English lessons with the same instructor, and you worked on only cantering in one lesson and only trotting in the next lesson, you cannot count these as two different points. Under English lessons you could count 3 points (one each for dressage, flat work and jumping).
8. **Each participant must be a CHS member. You must use the same horse throughout the year.**

9. Use **ONE *Proteus Award Certificate*** for each point and please be specific about the type of event or show (e.g., 4-H show, schooling show, rated show, etc.). Place the certificates along with your pictures, score sheets and any other back-up material in a notebook for submission to the judges. The integrity of the *Proteus* competition is based on self-reporting. It is essential that competitors report accurately their participation in each activity that is submitted for the competition. Those that are awarded the *Proteus* prizes may get them by a narrow margin. It is especially important for competitors to understand the spirit and integrity of the competition when putting together their notebooks for the judging.

10. All decisions of the judges are final. The awards will be made at their discretion, based on the merits of the entries submitted. In the case of a tie, the team with the broadest distribution of points among the categories wins. If a tie persists, the placement of the teams in their competitions may be used to separate the winners.

11. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to the first six places; participation ribbons for 7<sup>th</sup> Place and lower.

12. All *Proteus* entries must be submitted by **January 15** of the year following activities. The address will be announced in the *Lead Line*, or entrants may contact [cliftonhorsesociety@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonhorsesociety@gmail.com) for submission information. Winners are announced at the Annual Meeting in March.

13. **Entrants must submit a hard-copy compilation of their efforts and results;** a three-ring binder or scrapbook/photo album is recommended for organizing and presenting your activities. This *Proteus* “book” must be submitted with filled in *Proteus* Score Sheets and **MUST** be arranged in order of the *Proteus* Score Sheets. Please indicate what picture you want used for your prize, should you be selected.

We know there are often questions about *Proteus* points, but in general keep in mind that the activity must be a sponsored event—a weekend trail ride with friends will not count. Also remember the judges are looking for versatility—two walk/trot classes in the same show may not earn two points. The classes must have some difference. For example, in dressage it would be acceptable to do two different tests at the same level in one show, since the tests are different. Also, events such as Gymkhanas, where the names of a class may be different but the actual activity is the same, only one point will be given even if the classes are at two separate Gymkhanas. For example, racing down to grab a hat or racing down and grabbing a stick is not different—you are racing down and grabbing “something” and racing back. Please be specific when describing each class so the judges will know that there is a difference.

If there are any questions, please contact the *Proteus* organizers at Clifton Horse Society at [cliftonhorsesociety@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonhorsesociety@gmail.com)

*Guidelines Revised April 2024*

## *Proteus Award Certificate*

Score Sheet Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Event/ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

(One certificate per point)

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Outcome (scoring, placing, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above named Horse/ Rider team:

completed the event or activity described above

started but did not complete the event or activity described above

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(signed by official of event or sponsoring group or witness)

## *Proteus Award Certificate*

Score Sheet Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Event/ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

(One certificate per point)

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Outcome (scoring, placing, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above named Horse / Rider team:

completed the event or activity described above

started but did not complete the event or activity described above

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(signed by official of event or sponsoring group or witness)





	CHS	OTHER	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>WESTERN SHOW – RATED</b>				
Flat Class - Equitation				
Flat Class - Pleasure				
Timed Events (Barrels, Keyhole, Poles, etc.)				
Command, Break and Out				
Go As You Please				
Showmanship				
Trail Class				
Halter				
<b>DRESSAGE SHOW - SCHOOLING</b> Any 2 Tests				
Specify level and tests				
<b>DRESSAGE SHOW - RATED</b> Any 2 Tests				
Specify level and tests				
<b>JUMPER SHOW</b> O /F Under 2'6"				
O/F 2'6" to 3'				
O/F 3' and over				
<b>DRIVING SHOW</b> Pleasure Class				
Dressage				
Speed / Obstacle				
<b>FUN SHOW/GYMKHANA</b> Classes				
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES</b> List Each Class				
Bareback				
Grooming				
Others - Explain				
<b>II. COMPETITIVE TRAILS CATEGORY</b>				
Competitive/Endurance Ride / Drive				
ECTRA / NATRC Competitive Trail Ride				
ECTRA/NATRC Competitive Trail Ride - Multi-Day				
Endurance Ride - 50 miles, 1 Day				
Endurance Ride - Multi-Day				
Endurance Ride - Over 50 miles, 1 Day				
Judged Pleasure Ride / Drive				
Ride & Tie - 10 Miles or Less				
Ride & Tie - Over 10 Miles				
Other - Explain				

	CHS	OTHER	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>III. TRAILS CATEGORY</b> Leading Organized Ride /Drive (Can earn up to 3 points for CHS)				
Moonlight Ride / Drive				
Orienteering Ride				
Mounted Marshall or Worker				
Overnight Event (e.g., B&Bs, staying in motels, etc)				
Overnight Camping				
Pack Horse Duty				
Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive				
(Can earn up to 3 points for CHS) Point Rider				
(Can earn up to 3 points for CHS) Drag Rider				
Trail Cutting/Clearing (can earn up to 3 points for CHS)				
Trail Marking (can earn up to 3 points for CHS)				
Trail UnMarking (can earn up to 3 points for CHS)				
Pre-ride for CHS sponsored event (3 pts max)				
Trail Patrolling / Policing				
Outrider				
Other - Explain				
<b>IV. HUNTING CATEGORY</b>				
Beagling / Cubbing				
Exercising Hounds				
Fox Hunting				
Hill Topping				
Hunter Pace				
Hunter Trials				
Other - Explain				
<b>V. COMBINED TRAINING CATEGORY</b> (Max 3 points per show)				
CT 1 Day Trial (3 Phase) any 2 separate levels (1 point for each phase)				
CT 3 Day Event (3 Phase) any 2 separate levels (1 point for each phase)				
CT 2-Phase(Dressage/StadiumJumping)any 2 separate levels (1 point for each phase)				
Combined Driving (1 point for each phase)				
Other - Explain				

	CHS	OTHER	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>VI. WESTERN CATEGORY</b>				
Reining				
Cowboy Challenge				
Team Penning				
Other - Explain				
<b>VII. GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS CATEGORY</b>				
Caroling – Driven, Ridden, or Handwalked				
Clinic w/Horse (Flat, O/F, Trail, Driving, etc. 1 each max. Up to 5 points max)				
Charity Ride/Fund Raising for Worthy Cause				
Handicapped Mount				
Historic Re-Enactment				
Parades				
Pre-ride for potential CHS sponsored event (3 points max)				
Lessons (Flat, O/F, Trail, Driving, etc., 1 each max. 5 points max)				
Pony Club/Old People’s Riding Club Ratings 3 points max, 1 point per rating)				
Pony Rides				
Polo				
Public Relations with Horse				
Side Saddle Event				
Vaulting				
Other - Explain				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

Scoring Sheets Revised April 2024