



MISTY STEP
— STABLES —

"The Next Step" Horse Show, 2026

Clinic: September 18-19, 2026

Show: September 20, 2026

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Welcome to The Next Step Horse Show!

On behalf of everyone who has dedicated their precious time and energy to making this happen, welcome! We are delighted to welcome each horse, human, trainer, and ring side cheerleader! As well as being our first horse show at Misty Step, this is also one of the first ever live horse shows dedicated to training rooted in the science of learning and behavior. We're so excited to highlight the incredible ways behavior science is evolving the horse industry.

Whether you've been using these techniques for years, or you're just beginning to add these tools to your toolbox, we're so glad you're here. We aim to celebrate thoughtful training, open minds, and happy horses! We hope you'll find a welcoming, supportive environment where everyone can cheer each other on, learn from each other, and leave inspired.

As with any first-year event, we're sure there will be growing pains. Thank you for your patience, and willingness to be a part of something new. We'd love your feedback after the show, and if you have a wonderful time, we hope you'll let us know, so we can do it all again next year! **Please take time to review this prize list carefully,** which details the schedule, class descriptions, and show rules.



Above all, please enjoy the show! Whether you're an R+ veteran, curious newcomer, or figuring out how the science of behavior can help your horse thrive in a traditional training world - we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend the day with us!

Can't wait to see you and your talented partners in the arena!

A. General information

Emergency Contact:

- If you have any questions about your entry or registration call or text **Samantha Rubio: (619) 947-1559**. If you have questions about the facility, run of show, or if your horse requires veterinary attention, please text or call **Anna Boger (202) 360 3868**.

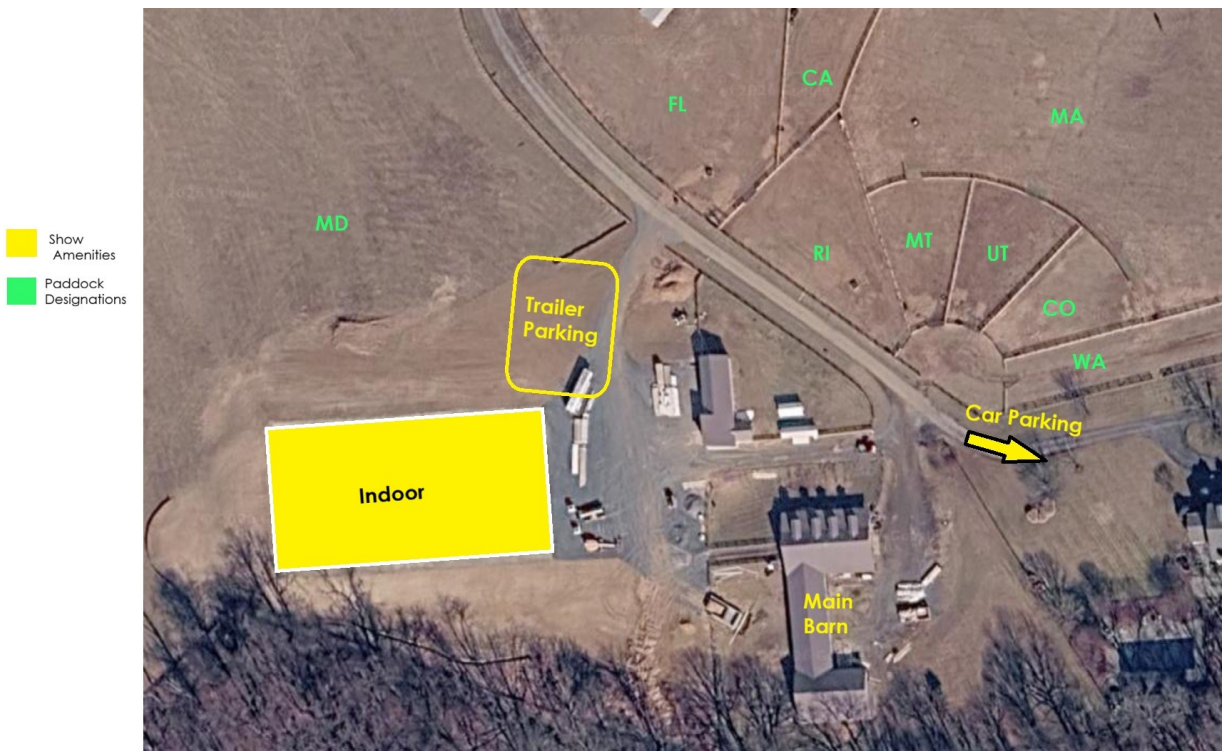
Directions:

- Misty Step Stables is Located at **18600 Barnesville MD, 20838**, and is directly across from the Monocacy Elementary School parking lot. From 270, the most convenient exit is Old Hundred Road (Route 109) west, which will take you all the way into Barnesville. At the stop sign in Barnesville a right turn (West) will take you onto Barnesville Rd and the farm is about 2 miles from the Town Center, on your left.

Visiting horses:

- Please indicate on your registration whether you will be bringing your own horse and if so fill out a Day Board contract and intake form. Options for renting a dry stall or a day board stall (includes feeding and stall cleaning) are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Please indicate on the form if you need trailer parking and we will communicate with you directly about where to leave your trailer. Paddock space may also be available for daytime turnout, but the **horse owner will be responsible** for turning the horse out during their time slot and back in before the next horse's time.

Map



Judges: Shawna Karrasch and Jessie Hillegas
from Shawna Karrasch Equine



And

Laura Parker Co-Founder of the Horse-First Show Series

Schedule

Sunday September 20, 2026

*****Note:** An updated schedule based on entries will be sent out to exhibitors and spectators closer to the show date. Exhibitors are expected to check in with the gate steward (at the table in the arena) before their class begins to determine the order of go. Exhibitors are responsible for monitoring the ring and being prepared when their number is called.

7:30 - 8:00 Check-in & Number Pickup

8:00 - 9:30 5 minute Schooling Slots (Class 1)

9:30 Welcome and Exhibitor Meeting (Ring Drag)

Horse-First Intro Pattern 1 - Amateur, Open, and Youth (Classes 2, 3, and 4)

Horse-First Intro Pattern 2 - Amateur Open and Youth (Classes 5, 6, and 7)

Brain Break/Lunch Break

Under Saddle Pattern - Amateur Open and Youth (Classes 8, 9, and 10)

Freestyle Exhibition Class (Class 11)

Awards

Class list

Schooling: There will be 5 minute slots available in the morning for your horse to see the ring with all the trappings of show day. These are individual slots, but feel free to share your slot with other horses/exhibitors! If your horse is stabled with us you are welcome to explore the grounds before or after show hours between 6:30am and 8pm. If you sign up for schooling, you will be given your schooling time at check-in.

Horse-First Intro Pattern 1: Please see Horse-First website (horsefirstshows.com) for detailed description of the pattern, or click [here](#) for Pattern 1. This test is to be performed at liberty - no halters, lead ropes, whips or other training tools are permitted. **A mechanical clicker is required** as a bridge signal. **A treat pouch or container** must be used and mounted securely to the exhibitor's hip. Cones will be provided for the class, extra buoy targets and clickers will be available for use during the class. Placings are awarded 1-6th place.

Horse-First Intro Pattern 2: Please see Horse-First website (horsefirstshows.com) for detailed description of the pattern, or click [here](#) for Pattern 2. This test is to be performed at liberty - no halters, lead ropes, whips or other training tools are permitted. **A mechanical clicker is required** as a bridge signal. **A treat pouch or container** must be used and mounted securely to the exhibitor's hip. Cones will be provided for the class, extra buoy targets and clickers will be available for use during the class. Placings are awarded 1-6th place.

Under Saddle Pattern: A short (approximately 2 minute) ridden pattern will be provided at check in to be performed under saddle. The pattern will loosely model an equitation test and might include any of these elements: walk on the rail, walk on centerline, walk on quarterline, halt at a specific letter and up to 5 seconds of duration, trot transitions, short durations of trot (less than or equal to 1 lap of the arena), walk over a pole, or 20 meter circle. Each test element will be scored on whether or not the behavior occurred at the designated letter or location in the arena. There will also be collective marks for horse's emotional state, clarity of communication, and effective use of reinforcement. **A mechanical clicker is required** as a bridge signal. Placings are awarded 1-6th place.

Freestyle Exhibition Class: Highlight your horse's unique skills and strengths in this non-competitive exhibition class. Exhibitors may prepare an at pattern at liberty or under saddle not to exceed 180 seconds. Music is welcome, however please send us your song at least 3 days in advance of the show. Every participant will receive a ribbon and commemorative prize in recognition of their accomplishments.

**** A Champion and Reserve Champion Ribbon will be awarded for each division (Amateur, Open, and Youth). See awards description on page 10 for details**

Division Specifications and Rules

Divisions:

“Amateur” designation: Classes designated as “amateur” are open to exhibitors who do not receive compensation for training horses, riding, or teaching lessons.

“Open” designation: Classes designated as “Open” are open to any exhibitor, regardless of age, experience or professional status.

“Youth” designation: Classes designated as “Youth” are open to exhibitors under the age of 18.

Other Rules and FAQ:

By entering the show, exhibitors agree to abide by the following rules:

- Judged classes **require use of a handheld mechanical clicker** as a bridge signal (for the Freestyle class vocal bridging is permitted).
- For Horse First classes, a treat pouch or container must be used, and must be securely mounted on the handler’s hip.
- Exhibitors may submit multiple horses, and horses can have multiple exhibitors.
- Check in with the gate steward before your class, and the steward will determine and announce the order of go.
- Management may combine divide, split, or cancel classes if necessary.
- Tack must be safe, properly fitted and not causing undue pain or stress to the horse. Judges or show management reserve the right to excuse any horse or exhibitor if continuing would compromise safety or welfare for any reason.
- If your horse is stabled with us you are welcome to explore the arena before or after show hours between 6:30am and 8pm.
- Please leave any facilities you use in the condition in which you found them, especially turning off any lights or fans that you turn on.
- Friendly dogs may be allowed on leash if previously cleared with Anna on a case by case basis (info@mistystepstables.com)
- Exhibitors may come from different backgrounds and disciplines. Though we highly encourage conversations about differing training methods, we require that everyone treat one another with kindness, and respect. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in dismissal from the show.
- Registration for the clinic is through our eventbrite page (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shawna-karrasch-equine-clinic-show-maryland-september-18-20-tickets-1996800234253>). Payments for stalls/board and show fees, must be made before the end of the event unless prior arrangements have been made. Check, cash, venmo ([@mistystepstables](https://www.venmo.com/@mistystepstables)), or zelle (annabogerdvm@gmail.com) are accepted.

Judging Criteria

Each movement is scored on a scale of 0 to 10, using the following general guidelines.

- 10 - Excellent
- 9 - Very Good
- 8 - Good
- 7 - Fairly Good
- 6 - Satisfactory
- 5 - Marginal
- 4 - Insufficient
- 3 - Fairly poor
- 2 - Poor
- 1 - Very poor
- 0 - Not performed

Collective marks will also be judged using this scale and aim to evaluate the overall performance of the horse and handler. They include:

- Horse's Emotional State and Welfare: Signs of relaxation, willingness, engagement, and overall expression
- Clarity of Communication - Consistency and effectiveness of cues and responses
- Handler Position and Awareness - Accuracy, timing, and spatial awareness in relation to the horse
- Use of Reinforcement - Timing, placement and effectiveness of reinforcement

Please note: scoring is a subjective and sometimes frustrating part of any judged competition. In particular, judging this show format is a challenging and a new endeavor for us and for our esteemed judges! **No exhibitor may approach a judge regarding placings.** If you have questions or concerns about your score, please don't hesitate to send them to info@mistystepstables.com. We will direct your feedback to whom it may concern and use the knowledge to improve future competitions (we hope!).

Showing and Associated Fees

Individual Class Entry (class 2 - 11)	25\$
Schooling Class Entry (class 1)	15\$
Office Fee (per horse)	25\$
Stall (per day)	40\$
Weekend Stall (covers Thursday afternoon-Monday Morning)	120\$
Stall and Care (per day)	70\$
Weekend Stall and Care (covers Thursday afternoon - Monday morning)	200\$
Grounds Fee (Haul in - no stall)	20\$

- Registration and payment for stabling is done in advance of the event and is processed through the eventbrite page for the clinic:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shawna-karrasch-equine-clinic-show-maryland-september-18-20-tickets-1996800234253>
- Show fees are paid for separately and must be paid before the end of the event unless prior arrangements have been made with Anna. Check, cash, venmo (@mistystepstables), or zelle (annabogerdvm@gmail.com) are accepted.
- **If you are requesting a stall** please carefully read the day board contract/intake form. They also have more information on the different stall rental options. Stalls and paddock space are on a first come first serve basis.
- Spectators to show day are free, so tell your friends :). Auditing the clinic days **does** have a fee, please see the eventbrite page for details.

Awards

Individual Class Awards

Ribbons will be awarded 1st - 6th place in all classes unless otherwise specified. These placings will be announced in the arena at the conclusion of each pattern.

The freestyle class will not be judged. Each participant will receive a ribbon and commemorative prize for their accomplishments.

Champion and Reserve Champion

Each Division (Open, Amateur, and youth) will be awarded a Champion and Reserve Champion. Any rider and horse pair that completes one Horsefirst Pattern class and an Under Saddle class in the same Division is automatically eligible. The highest combined score between those two classes will determine Champion and Reserve. If the rider competes in both Horsefirst Pattern 1 and Horsefirst Pattern 2, the higher score will be used for the calculation and the lower score will be dropped. It must be the same horse and rider pair in each class in order to be eligible.

Special Awards - Judged by "Horse First" Co-Founder: Laura Parker

- Most Enthusiastic Pair
- Most Improved Pair
- Odd Couple Award
- Best Outfit Award
- Best Hair Award
- Sportsmanship Award
- Creative Solution Award
- Other special awards may be presented at the discretion of the judge or show committee.