

Minnesota Sheriff's Mounted Posse Association



Annual Wagon Train for Youth



A little history of the event...



Le Sueur County Sheriff, Pat Smith Sr., and Waseca County Sheriff Don Eustice started a boys' group home in Waseca in 1975, to serve both counties for wayward boys. The grant that helped get the Waseca-Le Sueur County Boys Home established, was applied for by Don. This later expanded into several counties in MN known as Youth Ranches of MN. On September 4th, 1976, Don went, with deputy, Mert Schwartz, to serve a commitment paper to a mentally ill man in Waseca County. The man had known Don for a long time in fact, he had brought garden produce to the jail the previous week. When Don and Deputy Mert arrived at the farmhouse, they called the man to come outside - he opened the door, raised up his shotgun, and shot Don in the chest.

The Wagon Train has continued, started by Mert, in Don's honor, for 41 years to raise money to help our youth. \$1,000 goes to the MN State Mounted Posse Association's Donald Eustice Memorial Scholarship Fund to award members and/or family members who further their education in Law Enforcement. Most recently, the Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota have received the remaining money donated to help families that need medical help and need to stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

Today, Posse Members, Equine Enthusiasts, and their communities all join together in the MN State Mounted Posse Associations largest Fundraiser of the year, to continue to raise money for our Youth and their families! We are excited to be giving our donation to the Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN, again this year!! We hope you will join us this year at this Amazing event!



Giving to Children's MN

<https://www.childrensmn.org/fundraise-with-us/>

Your donation means every child gets care, regardless of their ability to pay.

Children's Minnesota is a nonprofit health system, and one of the largest pediatric systems in the country, with two hospitals, nine primary care clinics, seven rehabilitation and nine specialty care sites. Your gift means that a child — and their family — will always receive an exceptional level of care, support and resources, all thanks to your generosity.

The Foundation at Children's Minnesota

Our Foundation specifically raises funds to support our promise to every child: that they will have access to the best physicians, treatments and family support, regardless of their financial circumstances. Every year, thousands of community members donate to Children's Minnesota and support excellent pediatric care in our region. Whether you are a patient family, business, or community member who cares about healthy kids, we invite you to join us!

Why we Give to Children's MN

Hosting the Annual Wagon Train For Youth

Hosting the Annual Wagon Train for Youth is a lot of fun and even more rewarding when you can get all of the Minnesota Sheriff's Mounted Posse Members, Friends, and Families together, to raise funds for an awesome cause!

The Annual Wagon Train is not only a fundraiser for the Children's Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota, but also a great Public Relations event for YOUR County & the MN State Posse Association!

You can make it as big or small as you'd like. Your County has the freedom to do whatever you would like, as far as food, entertainment, fundraisers, etc. The sky's the limit!

When it comes to how much money you can raise, well, that's up to you. From your profits, \$1,000 will go to the Minnesota Sheriff's Mounted Posse Associations Donald Eustice Scholarship Fund and the remaining will go to the MN Children's Hospital & Clinics.

What an Awesome way to bring Awareness to your county, the MSMPA, and Children's Hospitals & Clinics of MN!

****This is a ride for Everyone, Posse Members or not. Teams of horses, mules, or ponies.
Horseback or Muleback riders.**

Step 1: Pick a Date & Times

If your county is hosting the Annual Wagon Train for Youth, you will want to pick the dates for your event. Historically, this event has been the weekend after Labor Day or close to that date. Wagon drivers do like at least a 2 day event to bring their teams and everything with them. But your county can choose how many days you want this event.

Plan a time for arrivals, time for the Wagon Train to leave and return, meals, and any extra events you may plan.

Step 2: Find a Venue

You will want to find a venue that will suit your event, parking for several trailers. .

You will want a place for people to sit and eat, a place for your caterer/ food, room for a live & silent auction, etc.

Some people come from a distance away and may want to stay over night the night before and of.

Step 3: Gather information on places for Guests & Horses to stay

We have guests coming from all over Minnesota, so this could mean they will be traveling sometimes up to 4+ hours one way.

Can guests camp at your venue? Is there electric or water hookups? Will there be an additional fee?

Will stalls be provided? Can they tie horses to trailers overnight?

What kind of clean up is expected?

You will want to provide this information with your registration forms.

*You will want to be sure that you have water available for horses

Step 4: Start Planning!

Again, your event is completely up to you! We will share some ideas of what has been done in the past.

1. Plan your Schedule.

Here are a couple ideas...

2. Determine the price

Of your registration.

3. Get this information to

msmpapublications@gmail.com

As soon as possible so we can

Help spread the word!



Helpful Documents that you can use & personalize:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xXDRIZNTx3CMHG3VkBIDa3m-RPSJX3-F?usp=drive_link

Determine How Guest will register...

How can your guests register?

In person, Mail, online, etc.

Will there be other forms of payment, such as Cash,

Check, Debit/Credit card, Venmo, PayPal...

What is your RSVP Date?

**39th Annual MN Sheriff's Mounted Posse Association
Wagon Train (& Ride) for Youth
September 10-11 2022
High Island Arena, Henderson, MN
26243 371st Ave. Henderson, Minnesota 56044
REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s) of Participant: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Registration includes Saturday noon and evening meals and Sunday breakfast, camping, parking, and fellowship.

Registration

Saturday:	# of adults _____ x \$40/ea. \$ _____
	#6-12 y/o _____ x \$20/ea. \$ _____
	Under 6 no charge
Sunday:	# of adults _____ x \$20/ea. \$ _____
	# 6-12 _____ x \$10/ea. \$ _____
	Under 6 no charge

DISCOUNT for Early Registration by September 1, 2022 Discount for both days \$5.00 Each Registrant

Payment by check (made out to SCSMP) or Venmo accepted.
Please indicate: _____ Will be driving a team _____ Riding saddle horses

Mail this registration form and your payment to:

Kay Klein
34747 Midway Ct
Kasota, MN 56050

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCSMP
Please **do not** make your checks out to Children's Hospital.



Again, be sure to submit all this information to MSMPApublications@gmail.com so that they can help spread the word to members via facebook and email.

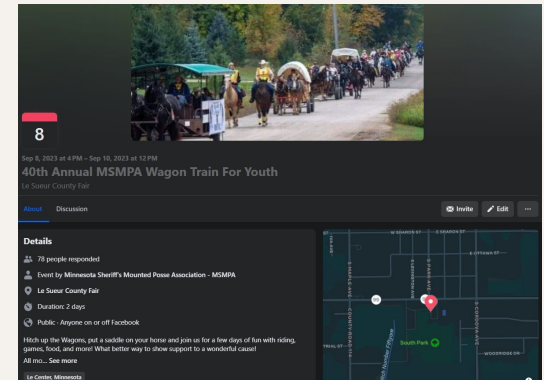
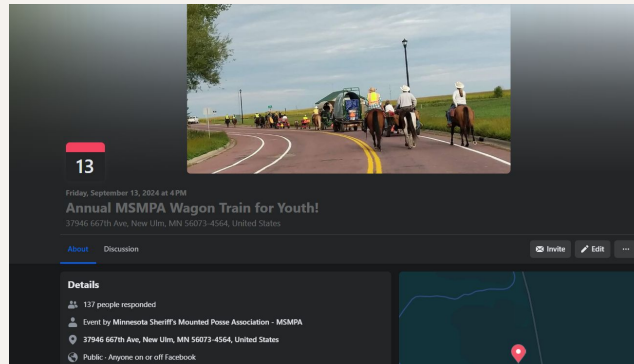
Be sure to Advertise!

It is very helpful to mail donation letters to local businesses, big companies, post on Social Media, share to horse groups on Facebook... and don't forget to engage with anything you do. Express this to your Posse Members as well.

Keep calling the businesses if you don't hear back. Explain what you are doing and why.

Ask grocery stores & meat markets for food or Gift Certificates, to help with meals.

Continue to post/share weekly on social media about your event. It takes someone 9 times to see the post before they may remember or notice it. Stay engaged. Make sure you have contact information for questions. It is also extremely helpful to have one event on Facebook and either co-host the MSMPA or have them create it and you do all the posting. Remember, only your county has all the details so make it easy to keep in contact with questions and updates.



Live & Silent Auctions

Of course, not a requirement

Historically, there have been both Live and Silent Auctions.

Each County has been asked to bring a minimum of 3 Live Auction Items and 3 Silent Auction Items to your event.

If your county choses to do this, please advertise this on your registration.

It is always good if your county obtains items to add to these auctions as well.

Don't forget the FOOD!

Your county will want to chose your menu.

You can have it catered or made. Up to you.

Maybe ask a local 4H or Church group if they'd be willing to help

Entertainment (Not required)

Will your county have additional entertainment? (not required, but something to think about)

Live Band, a small one person band, arena games, BINGO, campfire, etc...



Planning a route

- Have a planned/mapped route ...
 - About 15 miles a day is a good long ride, especially for horseback riders.
 - The horses typically travel about 3-4 mph... so something to think about when planning a route.
 - Non-busy roads are the best to keep everyone safe with traffic
 - Set a start time
 - Plan for a break within the first 1-2 hours of travel (potty breaks are appreciated)
 - It is also very helpful if you have a porta potty/bathroom at this destination.
 - Plan lunch about 11:30-12pm (a good 45 minutes to an hour gives everyone time to water horses, take a bathroom break, eat, relax, and get ready to go again)
 - Porta Potty or bathroom
 - Water available for horses
 - Places to tie horses if possible
 - Depending on the time it will take to get back to base, you may need another break along the way.
 - At each stop, make sure everyone has all arrived before announcing "Riders Down". Everyone must stay on horseback or in a wagon until then.
 - Give a 5-10 minute announcement prior to leaving destination to start again. To have everyone get back on and ready to go.

Must haves for the ride

- Have a Leader, someone who will lead the Wagon train, knows the route, and keep the pace. Try to keep at a comfortable walk. Remember, you have outback riders riding horses/mules that move a little slower than draft horses. If draft horses are trotting, you are moving too fast.
- Keep everyone together. This is for safety reasons! Do not let your riders drag behind and stretch out your group. Keep in mind that vehicle traffic needs to pass your Wagon Train. If you need to encourage the riders to move up, do so. If you need to stop the whole group to get everyone back together, do so. This is especially important at any road intersections that may need to be crossed.
- **Have designated outback riders with safety vests or safety green shirts on.** Provide them with radios so there can be communication throughout the group. Station 1-2 at the beginning of the group, 1-2 in the middle of the group, and 1-2 in the back of the group. They will help with any emergencies that may occur, keep in contact about the status of the group, be able to stop traffic at intersections, etc. You can always ask other counties to assist with this task if needed. We are all here to help. Also, your front and back teams, need to be able to communicate for passing traffic. Be able to let them know if you have a vehicle coming and if you can let them pass without interfering with other oncoming traffic.
- Have a truck and horse trailer on standby for any emergencies. Helpful to have at lunch break in case any horse or rider cannot continue the ride for any reason.
- Have a human and horse (vet wrap, gauze, bute, duct tape, etc) First Aid kit **on the ride**, either in a vehicle or a wagon. Be sure your safety team knows where to find it.

After Ride/ Dinner

Everyone enjoys the evening meal where they can talk about the day, relax, etc. Historically, there has been an evening meal. A Thank You from the hosting county to their participants, an explanation of what we were there to do again... a very important job of raising funds for both the MN Children's Hospitals & Clinics as well as for the MSMPA Donald Eustice Scholarship Fund.

You may also ask a representative of Children's Hospitals & Clinics of MN to come and participate. They are more than happy to share what the donation means to them.

There has also been a short presentation of donations received and by whom.

Introduce your county members and anyone else who had helped with your event.

Introduction of the MSMPA Counties in attendance

This is a great time to recognize where all your guests are from. It's always fun to learn who is a part of the Association or may be interested in joining.

Recognizing the Sheriffs' in attendance

Without our supporting Sheriffs', we wouldn't be here. Give them a Shout Out! Thank them for attending.

Additional items to think about

- Contact the MN Children's to let them know you are hosting a fundraising event for them.
 - <https://www.childrensmn.org/fundraise-with-us/>
 - **Contact** Sara Fabian, Gift Officer, sara.fabian@childrensmn.org
 - **Sara has attended the event in the past during the meal to express what the donations mean to the Children's Hospital and how it makes an impact. She has also set up the time and location to bring the donation and give a tour of the hospital for your County. This is quite amazing to show the impact your county has made with all their time and effort towards the event. She has been amazing to work with.**
- You may want to obtain a Special Event Insurance policy for the weekend of your event.
- Contact any food/health licensing that may be needed if serving food yourself.
- If you can, find ways for your community to participate, meet the horses, come join in the festivities even if they don't ride or have horses. Maybe this is sharing about the event and letting the public know about what you are doing and why you are raising money. Share where/what time a lunch break will be and have them come out to see the horses. Or add some type of additional activity for them to take part in. Ask for donations towards your cause.
- The public loves to watch a parade of horses go by, let them know your route so that they can come watch. Ask for donations along your route.
- Post Banners, signs, etc about who you are (MSMPA, County Posse, MN Children's Hospitals Clinics) on wagons or vehicles.
- Have a vehicle follow the wagon train with flashing lights, slow passing sign, ect. This protects the riders in the back. It will also serve to keep your riders together so no one is getting left behind.
- Your county may do any additional fundraising throughout the year towards this event. The Wagon Train can be the finale to celebrate what has been done. .

The Most Important Part...

Have FUN!!!

Enjoy the day and all your friends.



Donation Checks to the MSMPA

The payments for the following are due to the MSMPA Treasurer within 30 days of your event.

Calculate your expense, be sure your county is reimbursed for those.

\$1000 Donald Eustice Scholarship Fund- Mail to Becky Schwering

Anything remaining will go to the MN Children's Hospitals & Clinics

We Thank Your County for being so generous and hosting this amazing event!

MSMPA Executive Board