

# NEWS

January 12, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Five-Star Horse Campground Rankings Released Two Premier Campgrounds Tie for Most Votes**

Two perennial favorites, True West Campground, Stables & Mercantile, Jamestown, TN, and Heart of Dixie Trail Ride LLC, Troy, AL, tied for first place with an unprecedented 97 Five-Star votes each in the ninth annual ranking of horse campgrounds published by HorseTrailDirectory.com.

Horse Campgrounds also receiving strong endorsements from their guests were Mammoth Cave Horse Camp, Mammoth Cave, KY, third with 50 votes; Elkins Creek Horsecamp, Ironton, OH, 45 votes; Timber Ridge Horse Campground, Jamestown, TN, 40 votes; and Slabtown Trail Rides, Roby MO, 20 votes.

According to John Thurow, proprietor of HorseTrailDirectory.com, which presents the awards, the winning campground must earn the most Five-Star ratings from trail riders who post their ratings on HorseTrailDirectory.com during the year. In 2014, trail riders wrote nearly 600 reviews on 120 campgrounds, with 71 receiving at least one 5-Star rating. For a complete listing of 2014 Five-Star campgrounds and trails, visit <http://www.horsetrailandirectory.com/fivestars>.

Reading the reviews for True West Campground and Heart of Dixie Trail Ride reveals that the key to success is not only great trail riding and a clean campground, but perhaps most important, making guests feel welcome and giving them outstanding service. A couple of quotes from the reviews tell it all: "Donna and Shawn [proprietors of True West] were wonderful hosts. Shawn was there to greet us and help us unload our tack, cleaned out our trailer, and helped us get our horses settled in" and "The staff and owner of Heart of Dixie made you feel like you have known them all of your life."

Thurow said that the reviews of the winners recognized them for going the extra mile. At True West, "Shawn spent a couple of hours trying to repair a flat trailer tire. He took it upon himself to contact the tire dealer." And at Heart of Dixie, "Our slide would not go out on the trailer. Richard (Richard Dunn, owner) took time to help find a little connector that he had." Thurow noted that both True West Campground and Heart of Dixie Trail Ride are family run and that reviews consistently said that the winning proprietors made them feel like family.

HorseTrailDirectory.com has more than 1,100 trail and campground locations in its database with close to 800 having receiving one or more reviews since the review function has been available. Most locations are in North America but there are also listings in countries around the globe, including Argentina, Spain, Hungary, Russia and New Zealand. Each listing is described in a brief narrative, accompanied by information about the location, such as number of trail miles, trail difficulty, number of campsites, and directions to the location. After visiting a location, riders can comment on their experiences by posting reviews.

Check out [HorseTrailDirectory.com/fivestars/](http://HorseTrailDirectory.com/fivestars/) for further information.

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