

# NEWS

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## **Five-Star Horse Campground Rankings Released True West Campground, Stables & Mercantile Earns Most Votes**

True West Campground, Stables & Mercantile, adjacent to The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Jamestown, Tennessee beat out more than 1,000 campgrounds to win the coveted 2013 "Five-Star" Award given annually by HorseTrailDirectory.com. In only its third year in business, True West Campground received 113 Five-Star ratings out of a total 119 trail riders' reviews.

A perennial favorite, Heart of Dixie Trail Ride, LLC, Troy, Alabama came in second with 67 Five-Star ratings. Heart of Dixie has placed first or second every year trail riders have been posting their ratings and reviews on HorseTrailDirectory.com. Rounding out the top five are Mammoth Cave Horse Camp, Mammoth Cave, KY placing third with 17 Five-Star votes; Slab town Trail Rides, Roby MO fourth with 10 votes; and Elkins Creek Horsecamp in the Wayne National Forest, near Ironton, OH fifth with nine votes.

According to John Thurow, proprietor of HorseTrailDirectory.com, the winning campground must earn the most Five-Star ratings from trail riders who post their ratings on HorseTrailDirectory.com during the year. In 2013, trail riders wrote reviews on more than 700 campgrounds, with 98 receiving at least one 5-Star rating. For a complete listing of Five-Star campgrounds and trails, visit <http://www.horsetrailandirectory.com/fivestars>.

True West Campground is a Class A campground offering 33 sites with electric and water including 8 sites with septic. They also have lodging for rent, including The Marshal's Suite, a cabin dubbed the Miner's Shack and an RV. Additionally, there is an on-site gift store called "The Mercantile" filled with horse related gift items, hats, tack and clothing. Owned and operated by Shawn and Donna Martin, True West offers their guests access to hundreds of miles of scenic trails throughout The Big South Fork. They can ride along the rushing waters of White Oak Creek, enjoy lunch at dramatic overlooks, and view soaring rock formations along the trail. True West Campground is a family oriented facility with a calendar filled with events, ACTHA rides, pot lucks, guided rides and movie nights. After a day on the trails, guests can enjoy shopping in The Mercantile gift store, fishing in one of their two stocked ponds, rustling up a game of corn-hole or horseshoes, or trading trail stories around the campfire. True West's guests will agree that you won't find better HORSEpitality and True West is the place to be when visiting The Big South Fork. Shawn, Donna and their daughter Brittany who rounds out the family three-some, all credit their success to their guests whom they say inspire them to continuously improve and find more ways to make camping with horses fun!

Thurow said that HorseTrailDirectory.com site has more than 1,000 trail and campground locations in its database. Most 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.

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