

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND HORSE MONTH OCTOBER 2026

- WHEREAS, Maryland is a horse legacy state whose vibrant and diverse equine community welcomes everyone – from lifelong equestrians to first-time visitors – to experience the traditions and opportunities that have earned Maryland its reputation as the Horse State; and
- WHEREAS, Maryland's horse industry generates approximately \$2.9 billion in annual economic impact, supports thousands of jobs and businesses, and preserves farms, agricultural lands, open space, and rural communities across our State; and
- WHEREAS, In 2026, Maryland released the first-ever Maryland Horse Industry Strategic Plan, establishing a unified, statewide vision to advance economic development, public awareness, education and workforce development, sustainability, horse health and welfare, and collaboration across all sectors; and
- WHEREAS, This historic planning effort united Maryland's racing, breeding, sport horse, recreational, therapeutic, educational, veterinary, agricultural, and tourism communities in shaping a collaborative future for the State's horse industry; and
- WHEREAS, Throughout October, Maryland Horse Month celebrates this remarkable industry through more than 50 statewide events, featuring thousands of horses, ponies, and donkeys, attracting more than 100,000 spectators and providing opportunities for residents and visitors alike to experience Maryland's horse industry firsthand; and
- WHEREAS, These celebrations showcase Maryland's rich equine heritage through Thoroughbred and harness racing, the Maryland Million, international and national horse shows, steeplechasing, jousting, trail riding, farm tours, educational programs, and other opportunities for residents and visitors to experience horses firsthand; and
- WHEREAS, From historic Pimlico Race Course and the Preakness Stakes to Fair Hill, Prince George's Equestrian Center, the Washington International Horse Show, Maryland Horse Library & Education Center, Assateague's ponies, and Western Maryland's mountain trails, Maryland's horses and equine destinations contribute to the economic, agricultural, recreational, and cultural fabric of our State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2026 as MARYLAND HORSE MONTH, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of October
Two Thousand and twenty-six



Wes Moore
Governor
Oruna Miller
Lt. Governor
Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State