

Pack Llama Trail Association

The Challenge Event

The PLTA Challenge is a non-competitive obstacle course that is designed to provide education, camaraderie, and an introduction to the packing environment using natural obstacles in a natural setting.

The Challenge is not a mini-pack trial. Rather than being an examination of a llama's skill against strict standards, as the pack trial is, this event provides an opportunity to engage with other packers and handlers in a stress-free environment that supports learning and fun.

In the company of a Trail Master who selects the course and obstacles, llamas and their handlers negotiate a course that provides for exchange of ideas and training concepts and an opportunity to increase both the llama's and the handler's skill in a natural setting.

The requirements for a Challenge course are open ended allowing the event can be staged in a wide selection of venues. There may be no obstacles at all, or there may be as many as ten per mile. The course may be as long or short, as steep or flat, as easy or rugged as planners choose, as long as the basic criterion of a "realistic packing environment while allowing for variations in conditions that are peculiar to different parts of the country" is met.

The choice of how far the llama hikes, whether it carries weight, and what obstacles it negotiates are left to the discretion of the handler. Participants are allowed to undertake as much of the Challenge as they choose and still receive acknowledgement for their effort.

No one fails a Challenge. Llamas can attempt obstacles they have not experienced before and will not be eliminated from participation if they do not complete them. At the discretion of the Trail Master, Challenges can be used to teach handlers and their llamas the proper way to negotiate obstacles. The Trail Master can also allow participants to help select obstacles during the event.

Participating llamas earn points for the distance covered, elevation gained, amount of weight carried, and obstacles successfully completed. These points are compiled and displayed on the PLTA website. At the end of the year, each llama receives a certificate stating the number of points it achieved.



PLTA
Promoting the Working Llama
packllama.org

For More Information Contact:
Anne Sheeter, Program Manager
challenge@packllama.org

