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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Morven Park to Host Hundreds of Top Riders for Spring Horse Trials

LEESBURG, VA – Morven Park is thrilled to host over 250 riders for its annual Spring Horse Trials. The weekend features an equestrian discipline known as "eventing," in which each horse and rider combination must compete in dressage, show jumping, and cross-country. Competition begins on Saturday, March 31 and continues through Sunday, April 1 and is free for spectators.

"We are excited to be hosting the Morven Park Spring Horse Trials in our brand new outdoor riding arenas this year," said Sheryl Williams, Morven Park's Executive Director. "We are thankful for the equestrian community's continued support of the arena project and the International Equestrian Center and wish our competitors a great ride over the weekend."

This year's competition will feature 16 divisions, from Beginner Novice through Intermediate. Riders and horses will gallop across Morven Park's cross-country course, known as one of the best in the world. The Spring Horse Trials will also be the first event hosted in the newly built Morven Park arenas. Competition begins at 8 a.m. and will end at approximately 4 p.m. each day.

While riders of many levels compete at Morven Park, the education of young horses and riders has long been a focus, building on the legacy of the Morven Park International Equestrian Institute, an equestrian college for aspiring riders and trainers that was based at the park from 1967 to 1991.

All guests are asked to enter Morven Park via Tutt Lane from Route 15, just north of Leesburg. Spectators are invited to eat the MVP Café, which will be open both days of Horse Trials, and peruse offerings at the Vendor Village, which will be located right outside the Hofmann Building.

For more information about Horse Trials and the International Equestrian Center, visit <a href="www.MorvenPark.org">www.MorvenPark.org</a>. For those interested in sponsorship, email <a href="mailto:StrategicPartnerships@MorvenPark.org">StrategicPartnerships@MorvenPark.org</a>.

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre nonprofit park in Leesburg, Virginia. Known as the "Central Park" of Loudoun County, Morven Park welcomes 200,000 visitors each year who come to enjoy exquisite scenery, formal boxwood gardens, the Morven Park International Equestrian Center, the Athletic Field Complex, the iconic Greek Revival mansion, museums, and hiking trails. Morven Park was once the home of Thomas Swann, Jr., governor of Maryland during the Civil War, as well as the home of Westmoreland Davis, governor of Virginia during WWI. For more information, or to support the Park, visit <a href="https://www.MorvenPark.org">www.MorvenPark.org</a>.

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