

# FAQs about Headless Horseman

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## **What are the hours?**

Admission gates are open from 6-9 p.m. All guests admitted before 9 p.m. will be allowed one hayride (weather permitting). Most activities continue through 10 p.m. and depending on crowds, hayrides may extend past 11 p.m.

## **How long does it take to see all of the event?**

Most activities continue through 10 p.m., and guests usually participate in several activities along with the hayride. Most people plan to spend at least 3 hours at the event to take in the many offerings. The time you spend may vary depending on crowds, the size of your group and waiting times.

## **Is all of Conner Prairie open during the event?**

No. Because most of the property is utilized for staging the hayride, not all areas are accessible to the public during Headless Horseman. The Apple Store will remain open until 10 p.m., the Animal Encounters Barn will remain open until 8 p.m., Lenape Indian Camp for storytelling until 10 p.m. and the playground until 8 p.m. for children with adult supervision. For all guests' safety, we ask that you refrain from venturing off lit paths and exploring areas of Conner Prairie that are closed for the evening. Please come back and visit us during the day when you can experience all that Conner Prairie has to offer!

## **What should I wear?**

Headless Horseman is an outdoor event. October evenings can get quite chilly. Please dress accordingly in warm clothes and walking shoes or boots. We recommend dressing in layers and huddling close on the hayride.

## **Does Headless Horseman occur if the weather is bad?**

Headless Horseman takes place rain or shine, although there may be hayride delays in order to ensure the safety of our horses. In inclement weather conditions, Conner Prairie reserves the right to cancel the event and refunds are not given. Conner Prairie will post cancellations on the website after 3:15 p.m. and guests may also call 317.776.6000 for weather updates. Due to unpredictable weather in October, we advise that you dress in layers and plan accordingly.

## **Can I take pictures during the hayride?**

Feel free to bring your camera or camcorder to the event; however, we do not allow flash photography during the hayride or equipment on tripods. We suggest that you leave valuables at home, keep your cell phones

zipped in your pockets and be cautious when exiting the wagon. Conner Prairie is not responsible for misplaced items.

### **How early should I arrive if I want an early hayride time?**

Gates open at 6 p.m. Since hayride queue line tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, be prepared to arrive early for the convenience of an early hayride time.

### **Is Headless Horseman appropriate for small children?**

Conner Prairie offers a family-friendly festival for both adults and children of all ages. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow puppet show, Disney movie, kids' crafts, face painting and fall treats are all available for your family's enjoyment. Hayrides after 8 p.m. will pass through the woods of Conner Prairie in the dark, so it's up to parents to decide if their children are mature enough for the ride. The Headless Horseman will amaze most guests but young children might become frightened during the experience. There are no characters that will touch wagons during the hayride, and no need to worry about inappropriate decorations or gory special effects. Gates open 30 minutes sooner this year to allow more families with young children the opportunity for an earlier hayride; we advise you to arrive early to obtain an earlier slot. We are not able to accommodate requests for specific hayride times. Children age 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

### **What's new this year?**

- Scare-o-ke (Halloween music & dancing)
- Special programs at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Bayt Pavilion: paranormal investigators (Oct. 16-17); spiders (Oct. 21-22); snakes, tarantulas & scorpions (Oct. 23-24); bats (Oct. 28-30)
- 1859 Balloon Voyage flights (weather permitting) until 10 p.m.
- Animal Encounters barn open from until 8 p.m.
- Storytelling in Lenape Camp from until 10 p.m.
- Enjoy hot beverages and music in the Coffee Café until 10 p.m.

### **Can I fly on the balloon during Headless Horseman?**

Voyages will be offered until 10 p.m. (weather permitting) each night of Headless Horseman. Tickets will be sold from the balloon kiosk, located in 1859 Balloon Voyage exhibit Flight School area for \$12 member/\$15 non-member, or \$7 member/\$10 non-member with a \$5 discount coupon available at participating BP am/pm locations.

### **Will the lines be long?**

Conner Prairie offers timed tickets for the hayride so that guests may enjoy all the festival activities throughout the evening before they enter the hayride queue line. Because the hayride travels through the historic paths of Conner Prairie, we are only able to accommodate a limited number of tractors and wagons. We expect to see an average of 2,500 guests each night and we load and unload the wagons as quickly as possible so that guests may experience a thrilling ride through the backwoods of Conner Prairie. Please be patient and enjoy all we have to offer!

### **What types of food will be available?**

A variety of items will be available for purchase from 6-10 p.m.

- Chick-Fil-A (closed Sunday)
- Donato's (sliced pizza)
- Ichabod's (hot dog, BBQ, chili, nachos, chips, pretzels, popcorn, cookies, ice cream, soft drinks)
- Other tent locations (hot dog, BBQ, chili, nachos, chips, pretzels, popcorn, cookies, cobbler, pie, ice cream, hot chocolate, coffee)
- Cotton candy
- Kettle corn
- Boyd's Fudge
- Caramel apples, hot cider & other goodies at the Apple Store
- Coffee, cocoa, hot cider, fruit smoothies
- Make-you-own s'mores by the fire

Please note: wait times may vary for certain items due to popularity. The Café on the Common menu will not be available; however, hot beverages will be served in that location. For your convenience, an ATM machine is located in the Bayt Pavilion.

### **Is the Apple Store open?**

The Apple Store will remain open until 10 p.m. For your convenience, caramel apples and cider will also be sold (while supplies last) at a cash only tent located inside the festival grounds.

### **Tell me more about Conner Prairie's Headless Horseman.**

The Headless Horseman is a fictional character from the short story *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* written by Washington Irving in 1819. The story is set in America, within a 1790's Dutch settlement that residents nicknamed Sleepy Hollow. The main character, schoolteacher Ichabod Crane, must compete for the attention of Katrina Van Tassel with Brom Bones, who attempts to frighten him out of town with some haunted tales. The horseman is believed to be a Hessian soldier from the Revolutionary War who was decapitated by a cannonball and now roams Sleepy Hollow on the back of his horse, with his severed head resting upon the pommel of his saddle. He is incapable of crossing the bridge at the town entrance (a possible reference to the belief that ghosts cannot cross water), although he is shown throwing his head across a river to strike down Ichabod Crane.

You'll see references to the story during your evening visit to Conner Prairie. Enjoy concessions at Ichabod's next to the Bayt Pavilion, be entertained by *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* puppet show in Featherston Barn, or enjoy the Disney movie, *The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad*, in the picnic shelter next to the playground. While you wait to board the hayride wagons, you'll pass by the Van Tassel's party at the Golden Eagle Inn, where you might be warned about the Headless Horseman. During the ride, keep your eyes peeled for the Headless Horseman before you cross the covered bridge and look for a shattered pumpkin next to Ichabod's grave.

### **Is the hayride ADA accessible?**

The festival grounds are fully accessible to disabled guests. However, buildings and walkways are authentic to the 19th century, which may impose certain restrictions. Stone paths in the historic areas leading up to the wagon loading area may be difficult for wheelchair travel. Conner Prairie staff will reasonably accommodate persons needing assistance. Handicapped parking is available close to the Welcome Center. For more information, please download our [Accessibility Map](#) or call Guest Services at 317.776.6006.

### **I plan on coming with a group. Can we all get on the same hayride?**

Due to the popularity of the event, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to be seated on the same wagon during loading. In order to keep the wagons on schedule, we ask that you cooperate with the wagon loaders when boarding. If your group is larger than 15, we also ask that you go to the Guest Services entrance line, where you can be more easily accommodated upon arrival. They will do their best to get your group the same hayride queue line ticket. We also recommend that you call Guest Services at 317.776.6006 for any additional questions prior to the event.

### **What is included in the admission price? Do I need extra spending money?**

The cost of your ticket covers all of the festival activities and one hayride during the night. Additional costs include beverages, food and snacks, or make-your-own s'mores, face painting/caricatures and balloon flight tickets. For your convenience, an ATM machine is located in the Bayt Pavilion.

### **What are the advantages of being a Conner Prairie Member at Headless Horseman?**

We are pleased to provide members complimentary admission to our festivals throughout the year – Civil War Days, Indiana Festival, Glorious Fourth, Country Fair and certain nights of Headless Horseman. Since the most attended evenings are Friday and Saturday, we hope to provide members a more enjoyable evening and lighter crowds during the weekdays. Members do not need to purchase tickets for these nights, but do need to enter through the member gates and show a member card. Look for the orange banner and flags. Plus level (and higher) members may attend for free any night.

### **Where do I buy tickets? Can I purchase them in advance?**

Pre-sale tickets can be purchased at participating Marsh/O'Malia's outlets. Tickets for Wednesday/Thursday/Sunday are \$7 and Friday/Saturday for \$11. We recommend that you call ahead before driving to the store. Or you may purchase tickets between 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday/Thursday/Sunday for \$9 or Friday/Sunday for \$13 at the Conner Prairie entrance gate. Hayride queue line tickets are only distributed at the entrance gates on each night of Headless Horseman. Balloon flight tickets are an additional fee.

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**We reserve the right to eject anyone for what we deem improper or inappropriate behavior, without refund of the ticket price. This includes, but is not limited to: foul language, pushing or shoving, intoxication, and lack of respect for our staff, animals and other guests. Hayride participants are expected to follow guidelines given to them by the wagon loaders and keep their arms and legs within the wagon at all times. These rules are strictly enforced to ensure each and every customer has a great time!**