

# The Kentucky Derby

## Kentucky's Most Famous Horse Race



Kentucky is known for two things: bluegrass and horse racing. Kentucky is called the bluegrass state. Bluegrass is a kind of grass. It is good food for horses. It grows all over the state.

Kentucky has lots of horse farms. It also has the Kentucky Derby.

The Kentucky Derby is a horse race. It is famous. The track is in Louisville, Kentucky. The race is on the first Saturday in May. The race is filled with fun events.

The Kentucky Derby is called “The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports.” That’s because it only takes two minutes for the horses to run the race. The race is short. But the other events last much longer.

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## The Kentucky Derby

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The Kentucky Derby Festival starts two weeks before the race. It begins with fireworks. The event is called the Thunder Over Louisville.

Next is the Great Balloon Race. Hundreds of hot air balloons fly in the sky. It is very colorful. People love it.

Then there is The Great Steamboat Race. Two or three boats race each other along the Ohio River.

The Pegasus Parade is next. It is one of the country's largest parades.



Race day is lively. People dress up. Men wear suits. Ladies wear big, fancy hats. Some of the hats are pretty wild. People love to talk about the hats.

After the race, the winning horse gets a prize. They put a blanket of roses around its neck. The blanket is made from more than 500 roses. It is why the Kentucky Derby is often called "The Run for the Roses."



The Kentucky Derby is an important race. It is the first race in the Triple Crown. There are three races in the Triple Crown. To win the Triple Crown, you have to win all three races in one year. Very few horses win all three. In fact, only 12 horses ever have. The contest began in 1875.



# The Kentucky Derby

## The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports



Kentucky is famous for two things: bluegrass and horse racing. Kentucky is called the bluegrass state because it has rich soil and pastures covered in bluegrass. Bluegrass is a kind of grass that horses love to eat.

Kentucky has a lot of farms that raise racehorses. The state is home to one of the most famous horse races: the Kentucky Derby. The racetrack is located in Louisville, Kentucky's largest city. The race, which takes place each year on the first Saturday in May, is filled with fun events and traditions.

The Kentucky Derby is called "The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports." That's because it only takes the horses two minutes to run around the track. But the festivities that go along with the Kentucky Derby last much longer than the race does.

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## The Kentucky Derby

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The Kentucky Derby Festival begins two weeks before the race with the Thunder over Louisville. The Thunder is one of the largest fireworks displays in the country. It is also one of the loudest.

Next is the Great Balloon Race. Hundreds of hot air balloons take flight for this colorful event. Many say that the balloon race is one of their favorite events.

There is also the Great Steamboat Race. The race takes place on the Ohio River between two or three boats. It always features the *Belle of Louisville*, a steamboat built and operated since 1914.

Other events follow. Most notable is the Pegasus parade, which is one of the country's largest parades.



Race day is always lively and full of tradition. People dress up. Men wear suits. Ladies wear big, fancy hats. Some of the hats are pretty wild. People love to talk about the hats.

After the race, the winning horse is led to the winner's circle. They put a blanket of roses around its neck. The blanket is made from more than 500 roses and is why the Kentucky Derby is often called "The Run for the Roses."



The Kentucky Derby is an important horse race. It is the first race in the Triple Crown. The Triple Crown is a contest that consists of three races. The winning horse must come in first in all three. The first is in Kentucky. The second is the Preakness, which is in Maryland. The third is the Belmont, which is in New York. Very few horses have won the Triple Crown. In fact, only 12 horses have won the title since the contest began in 1875.



# The Kentucky Derby

## The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports



The state of Kentucky is famous for two things: bluegrass and horse racing. Kentucky is called the bluegrass state because of its rich soil and pastures covered in bluegrass. Bluegrass is a kind of grass that horses love to eat.

Kentucky has a lot of farms that raise racehorses. The state is also home to one of the most famous horse races—the Kentucky Derby. The racetrack is located in Louisville, Kentucky's largest city. The race, which takes place each year on the first Saturday in May, is filled with fun events and traditions.

The Kentucky Derby is often called “The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports” because it only takes two minutes for the horses to run around the track. While the race only lasts for two minutes, the festivities that go along with the Kentucky Derby last much longer than that.

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The Kentucky Derby Festival begins two weeks before the race with an event called the Thunder Over Louisville. The Thunder is one of the largest (and loudest) fireworks displays in the country.

Next is the Great Balloon Race, in which hundreds of hot air balloons take flight in a colorful display. The balloon race is a crowd favorite and brings spectators from miles around.

The next event is The Great Steamboat Race. The race takes place along the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky to Jeffersonville, Indiana. While two or three boats usually compete, the race always features the *Belle of Louisville*, a steamboat built and operated since 1914.

Many other events follow. The most notable of these is the Pegasus Parade, one of the country's largest parades.



Race day is always lively and full of tradition. People dress up to attend the race. Men wear suits and ladies wear big, fancy hats. Some of the hats are pretty wild. People love to talk about the hats.

After the race, the winning horse is led to the winner's circle and presented with a garland of roses. The garland, made up of more than 500 roses, is hung around the horse's neck and is why the Kentucky Derby is often called "The Run for the Roses."



The Kentucky Derby is an important horse race. It is the first race in the Triple Crown, a competition that consists of three separate horse races. To win the Triple Crown, a horse must win all three races in the same year. The first race is in Kentucky. The second race is the Preakness Stakes in Maryland. The third is the Belmont Stakes in New York. Very few horses have ever won the Triple Crown. In fact, only 12 horses have won the title since the competition began in 1875.

