

Elizabeth T. Phillips

Co-founder, Oculus R Golf Partners

SHORT BIO

Elizabeth T. Phillips is a life-long equestrian and accomplished show jumper, achieving results up to the 1.45 National Grand Prix. Residing in Ocala, FL, and Aiken, SC, she has had a career spanning education, mental health, and human services.

Liz began her professional journey in Houston, TX, as a guidance counselor for The Hope School before continuing her work in student advocacy and enrichment through the Horizons Student Enrichment Program in New Canaan, Connecticut. She later became a certified Guardian ad Litem, advocating for children within the foster care system.

Alongside her professional career, Liz has developed strong relationships across all facets of the equestrian community, at local, national, and international levels. She currently competes as an amateur, primarily at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, owns and manages her own show stables, and pursues her special interest of supporting young riders as they progress through the sport.

Liz earned her BA in Psychology from Denison University and holds advanced degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

LONG BIO

- Life-long equestrian and accomplished show jumper with results up to the 1.45 National Grand Prix.
- Resident of Ocala, FL, and Aiken, SC, both historic equestrian communities.
- Career in education, mental health, and human services with both public and private experience.

Professional Career: Elizabeth T. Phillips' professional career began in Houston, TX, as a guidance counselor for The Hope School, an alternative educational environment for children with complex mental and emotional health diagnoses. In 2000, she joined the Horizons Student Enrichment Program in New Canaan, CT, to develop a year-round educational, social, and emotional enrichment program for high school students from underprivileged families. She later became a certified Guardian ad Litem, advocating for the needs of children in foster care as their often complex family cases navigated the court system. Liz also founded a not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding Guardian ad Litem and child advocacy services across the state of Connecticut.

Equestrian Journey & Achievements: Liz started riding at Mrs. Dillon's Stables in Virginia at the age of 7. By 12, she owned a Farnley pony and competed on the Virginia and Maryland circuits. After a hiatus, she returned to show jumping with encouragement from her husband Craig, passing the passion to their five children. Liz has an established show record in both Hunter and Jumper disciplines, participating in the Mid-Atlantic and New England show circuits. Today, Liz competes as an amateur primarily at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, the largest and most developed infrastructure of any equestrian venue in the United States. She has nurtured strong relationships across all facets of the equestrian community in Ocala, across the U.S. and Europe. Liz takes a particular interest in supporting young riders, working closely with both riders and their parents to help them understand the nuances of the sport and navigate the various stages of rider development.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Liz stayed in Florida and established her own show stables, including purchasing and selling sports horses, developing young horses, and collaborating with other riders and professionals. She currently rides and trains with U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist Will Simpson.

Education: Liz earned her BA in Psychology from Denison University and both an M.S.Ed. and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She also completed a two-year certification program in Marriage and Family Therapy with the Penn Council for Relationships. Her educational background has provided her with a strong foundation in understanding human behavior and mental health, which she has applied in various professional roles.