

Winners Crowned at 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Hat Contest, Presented by Hat Sational by DEI, During Opening Weekend Festivities at Saratoga Race Course



Fashionably Saratoga first place winner Kim Nikolaus



Kreative Kids first place winner Olivia Grove (right), second place winner Madison Turman (left) and third place winner Michaela Reardon (center)



Uniquely Saratoga first place winner Julie Potter



Contestants from the Fashionably Saratoga category

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. ó The festivities surrounding opening weekend at Saratoga Race Course were filled with excitement as the Spa today capped off its first weekend of the 147<sup>th</sup> racing season with the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Hat Contest, presented by Hat Sational by DEI.

The millinery mayhem unfolded on the track apron Sunday afternoon when numerous participants turned out to compete in the contest's three distinct categories: Uniquely Saratoga, Fashionably Saratoga, and for younger patrons, Kreative Kids.

Following the day's fifth race Julie Potter of Pattersonville, NY, was crowned the winner of the day's most celebrated category, Uniquely Saratoga, which recognizes whimsical and creative hats. Potter received the grand prize of a \$100 Hat Sational by DEI gift card. Rounding out the category's finalists was the second place winner Ann Medici of Latham, NY; followed by third place winner Dana Smooke of Woodbridge, CT. The finalists each received fascinators from Hat Sational by DEI.

The day's most popular category, Fashionably Saratoga, brought a number of stylish contestants to the competition each donning their most beautiful hats. Following the fourth race, Kim Nikolaus of Hagaman, NY, was named the day's most fashionable contestant and awarded a \$100 Hat Sational by DEI gift card. Freya Smith of Fort Johnson, NY, came in second place and Arlene Hogan of Clifton Park, NY, ranked third. The finalists each received fascinators from Hat Sational by DEI.

Olivia Grove, 9, of Dunwoody, GA, claimed the title of most stylish youngster during the first category of the afternoon, Kreative Kids, which is reserved for those 18 and under. Grove received the prize of a \$75 Hat Sational by DEI gift card. Madison Turman, 10, of Burlington, VT, finished in second place followed by Michaela Reardon, 12, of Ballston Lake, NY, in third place, to each win gift certificates to Flight Trampoline Park.

The day's winners were selected by a panel of judges, including Chris Bushee of Saratoga Today; Ali Soucy of FLY 92.3; and Leigh Hornbeck, staff writer for the Times Union. The contest was emceed by Heather Kovar of NewsCenter 10 ABC.

The annual Hat Contest is the highlight of the three-day "Hats Off to Saratoga" festival which celebrates the arrival of the Saratoga racing season. The 2015 summer meet at Saratoga Race Course continues through Labor Day, Monday, September 7.

For more information about Saratoga Race Course, call (518) 584-6200 or visit [www.nyra.com/saratoga](http://www.nyra.com/saratoga).