



AQHA Outstanding Youth Award

The AQHA Outstanding Youth Award recognizes AQHYA and YEDA members that demonstrate sportsmanship and dedication within their team and barn. The Award Committee will announce the scholarship recipient by June 1. All applicants agree upon submission that your essay and media presentation could be used by AQHA and/or YEDA.

Applications due by April 1

Qualifications and Requirements

Applicant Requirements:

1. Must be a current member in good standing with AQHYA.
2. Must be a current member in good standing with YEDA and have been on a team for at least one show season.
 - a. YEDA coach or adviser must provide verification letter.
3. Must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better.
 - a. Applicants must provide verification of their grade point average from their high school registrar (or equivalent for alternative school structure).
4. Must have been on a team for at least one show season.
5. Applicants must include/provide the following information:
 - a. Application Form
 - b. High School Transcript or Grade Report
 - c. Verification letter from team coach or team adviser
 - d. Two letters of recommendation
 - i. Letters must be from individuals not related to the applicant, such as an equine professional or coach, detailing your sportsmanship skills and what makes you an outstanding youth.
 - e. Personal Essay
 - i. In a 500-750-word essay, answer the following question: Why I am an Outstanding Youth.
 - ii. Essay response should describe yourself and the way in which you have shown sportsmanship, as well as dedication to furthering yourself as a student, equestrian, leader and teammate while competing in YEDA and/or AQHYA. Include how your experience as an equestrian will impact and shape your academic and professional career, as well as any plans to advance the American Quarter Horse and its industry.

Application

Name: _____ Age: _____

YEDA Team: _____ Number of YEDA Membership Years: _____

AQHYA Member ID: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Name of High School of Anticipated Graduation:

Please use the space below to write a short personal biography (school activities, hobbies, goals, etc.):

Briefly describe your future plans after graduation (college, apprenticeship, work training, etc.):

Describe your most meaningful sportsmanship experience and explain how it impacted your growth as a competitor and team member:

Describe the extent to which you have actively given back to your community or the equine industry through service.

This signature verifies agreement upon submission that my essay and media presentation could be used by YEDA.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If under 18, parent/guardian: _____

For award requirement questions, email: trafeld@showyeda.com

For online application from questions, email: youth@aqha.org

Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned	Notes
Application & Short-Answer Questions	20		
2 Letters of Recommendation (10 each)	20		
Essay	50		
Completeness (Verification Letter & Transcript/Grade Report)	10		
Total	100		