



AHYA Youth of the Year

2019, Nina Barretts, Region 15

At the 2019 Annual AHA Membership Convention in Tulsa, OK it was announced that Holland, Pennsylvania youth Nina Barretts is the recipient of the 2019 AHA Youth of the Year award.



Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. Through her high school career, she has taken on numerous volunteer and service positions. Nina has a desire for serving and takes many opportunities to help those in her local community with over 60 hours of community service work. In 2019, Nina was inducted into the National English Honors Society for exemplary work in honors level English classes throughout High School. She has been a member of the French Honors Society all of her High School career and a distinguished honor roll student with a GPA over 4.0. This year she was also hand-picked to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum: Law and CSI in Washington D.C. The experience from this event helped solidify her dreams to work in the Criminal Justice field.

Nina is an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. She didn't start riding until she was 13, but she has taken advantage of her few short years in the industry. Her work has ranged from helping teach summer camps at her barn, to being an assistant trainer, and even showing at her first A rated show this last year. As a late bloomer in the industry, she sees the benefit in having Academy classes at more shows and would like to see the Academy division grow to provide more opportunities for other young riders to get their foot in the door.

Her passion, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support of the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that we, as Arabian Horse Association members want to represent us as our Youth of the Year. We would like to present her with the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$1,000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association.

Nina Barretts is a leader among her peers, serving her breed and others with a selfless attitude and the heart of a champion. AHA is proud to call her our 2019 'Youth of the Year'.

AHA would also like to congratulate, Mr Payne Harper from Region 9 as the first runner-up for 'Youth of the Year' and earning a \$500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine. Congrats to all!

Below is the transcript of the Youth of the Year Award results presentation from the 2019 AHA Annual Membership Convention in Tulsa, OK. The presentation was made by 2019 Youth of the Year Selection Sub-Committee Chair, Debbie Price of Region 1.

Thank you, it is an honor to serve on the Youth of the Year sub-committee. I'd like to begin by recognizing those who joined me in selecting the 2019 winner:

Deborah Johnson, AHA Vice President
Cindy Howey, Youth Committee Vice Chair
Hillary Hoffman, Region 10
Kari Amundson, Region 5

AHA youth members are anything but average! The Youth of the Year award honors annually one outstanding youth member. Criteria for this prestigious award is based on his or her achievements and contributions to the Arabian horse industry, to AHA and lastly to his or her community. Our past winners have been outstanding ambassadors for the breed and have gone on to represent us exceptionally well – not just in the Arabian horse industry but in the equine industry as a whole.

Each year, our committee is privileged to review these applications, giving us a chance to learn about some of our brightest youth members and then personally interview the final candidates. Each of the finalists presented their own strengths, passions and insights in various areas. We continue to be amazed each year with the quality of the youth members that are a part of this organization.

Region 9 was well represented this year by a determined and charismatic young man by the name of Payne Harper. Payne has been a very active and important member of his community and the Arabian Horse Community. He has a huge heart and after hearing about some major bullying going on in his region, Payne and fellow youth Cole Reser stepped up and started the Ride Up and Ride On Campaign against bullying. Payne is passionate about helping other youth exhibitors know that they are not alone and that they can feel comfortable telling people when they are being bullied. He also is trying to bring awareness to this problem and empower others to help stop and call out bullying. The first runner up for the Youth of the Year will be awarded a \$500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine. Congratulations Payne for being the 2019 first runner up for the Youth of the Year and being the recipient of the \$500 scholarship. Payne please come up and receive your award.



With so many bright futures placed before us, it was certainly difficult to choose a single winner. This year, one candidate distinguished herself, with her passion for the Arabian horse breed; with her desire to help others, and to bring people in the industry together. It is now my distinct honor to describe to you an outstanding youth from Region 15.

Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. Through her high school career, she has taken on numerous volunteer and service positions. She has a desire for serving and takes many opportunities to serve those in her local community with over 60 hours of community service work. In 2019 she was inducted into the National English Honors Society for

exemplary work in honors level English classes throughout High School. She has been a member of the French Honors Society all of her High School career and a distinguished honor roll student with a GPA over 4.0. This year she was also hand-picked to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum: Law and CSI in Washington D.C. The experience from this event helped her solidify her dreams to work in the Criminal Justice field.

Moreover, our Youth of the Year has and is an important part of the Arabian Horse community. She did start riding until she was 13, but she has taken advantage of her few short years in the industry. Helping teach summer camps at her barn, to assistant training, and even showed at her first A rated show this last year. As a late bloomer in the industry she sees the benefit in having Academy classes at more shows and would like to see the Academy division grow to provide more opportunities for other young riders to get their foot in the door.

Her passion, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support of the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that we, as Arabian Horse Association members want to represent us as our Youth of the Year. We would like to present her with the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$1000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present to you, from Holland, Pennsylvania and Region 15, your 2019 Youth of the Year, Miss Nina Barretts.