The Arabian Horse Youth Association Announces their 2015-2016 'Youth of the Year' Award Winner

(21-Novemberr-15 – TULSA, OK) –- AHA youth members are anything but average! The Youth of the Year award honors one outstanding youth member annually. Criteria for this prestigious award are based on his or her academic and community achievements and contributions to the Arabian horse industry, AHA and his or her community.

This year, one candidate distinguished herself amongst all others; her carefully thought out goals for the Arabian breed; with her desire to help youth and her perseverance in every aspect of her life set her apart.

AHA is proud to announce **Miss Sydney Young**, from Sherwood Park, Alberta Canada, as the honored winner of this year's '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 was able to study overseas in South-East Asia. She spent 3 months traveling and studying International Business, English, World Issues, and Physical Education.

Traveling while in High School opened Young's eyes to the world and she enjoyed hearing stories of all different people she met and the unique lifestyle they each had to share.

Prior to Young's travels to South-East Asia she traveled to Africa where she was able to grasp the traditional culture and food of the region. Young's involvement with the people of Africa and South-East Asia showed her what an incredible world we live in and how important stepping outside of your comfort zone is.

This enduring young woman has also spent time volunteering for Hearts in Action, a summer camp for kids with disabilities, where she led a group of 10 year olds. Young's compassion can be seen as each child left a lasting impression on her heart.

Beyond all of her other great achievements she has earned her diploma in Advanced Professional Esthetics allowing her to pursue her passion in the fashion industry. Her success within the Fashion Industry is apparent and can be seen through her participation in the Western Canada Fashion week and her plan for her own show next September.

Our Youth of the Year has also been an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association, serving as the Region 17 Youth Vice Director in 2010-2013 and the Youth Director since August 2014. When Young stepped up as Youth Director she recruited 34 youth members to participate in her regional meeting. She started a Youth Regional Show committee and started numerous fundraisers during the

Region 17 Championship Show.

Through a Trainer Egg and Spoon Jackpot, Silent Auction, Dunk Tank, and a t-shirt Sponsorship she was able to raise enough money in her Region to continue to support their Regional Scholarship. At the national level, this young lady was elected as this year's AHYA Treasurer and is also the Canadian Nationals Youth Committee Chair.

Her efforts within the Arabian horse community have led Young to strive to be a positive influence on AHYA and a role model for those who aspire to become further involved in the Arabian horse community. She believes that the Arabian youth community can and will grow – that youth are the stepping stones to the future.

Young's credentials, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support for the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that we, as the Arabian Horse Association want to represent 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!

Sydney Young 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 2015 'Youth of the Year'.

AHA would also like to congratulate, Miss Taylor Kyse from Region 3 as the first runner-up for 'Youth of the Year' also earning a $500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine and Miss Natalie Alves from Region 17, as the second runner-up. Congrats to all!