



AHA Communications
303.696.4500
enews@ArabianHorses.org

The Arabian Horse Association Announces the 2021 Youth of the Year Award Winner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Aurora, CO – November 19, 2021 – Arabian Horse Association (AHA) youth members are exceptional! The Youth of the Year Award honors one outstanding youth member who exemplifies character and dedication to excellence in this or her academic and community achievements, as well as contributions to the Arabian horse industry and AHA.



In 2021, one candidate distinguished herself with a passion for the Arabian horse breed in bringing industry individuals together to help others. AHA is proud to announce **Miss Sophia Huffman**, from Lewiston, Idaho, as the honored winner of the 2021 Youth of the Year Award. Sophia receives the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$5,000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Foundation.

Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. She is currently enrolled in a Dual Credit program at Lewis-Clark State College, allowing her to gain college and high school credits at the same time. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant and works in a local nursing home. Though this position has been one of the most challenging for Sophia, she says that serving her community in this way has taught her to be patient, thorough, and compassionate in everything she does.

Moreover, our Youth of the Year has and is an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. She competed in the Youth Judging Contest earning her first National Title as the High Individual Overall. She believes that involvement at any level is important as it improves not only our own lives, but the lives of others through the work that we do when we are involved in something worthwhile.

Ms. Grace Smith from Region 5 is the first runner-up for Youth of the Year. She receives a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by The Arabian Horse Association.

Grace has been a big part of AHYA in and out of the show ring. She has served as the Region 5 Co-Director, leading her fellow youth in multiple fundraisers and prides herself in making sure all the youth of her region are encouraged and feel included. She now serves as the AHYA Vice-President and cannot wait to do everything she can to make a positive





AHA Communications
303.696.4500
enews@ArabianHorses.org

impact. Beyond this Grace is very active in her school clubs, being an officer in the Future Business Leaders of America club at her school. She has helped lead numerous community service projects and volunteers weekly in a kindergarten classroom to help a student with special needs. Along with all of Grace's service activities and horse activities Grace also plays on a club Softball team and has shown her leadership as a team captain numerous years.



Finally we would like to congratulate Ms. Brooke Backlund from Region 10 as our Second Runner-Up. Brooke is extremely involved in AHYA, serving as the AHYA President. She has competed at multiple levels with multiple horses in the show ring, but finds joy in growing and building her relationship with the horses she shows by trying new disciplines every year. She is a hard worker, passionate and determined in all that she does. We congratulate Brooke on her many achievements and as the Second Runner-up for Youth of the Year.

We would like to congratulate our outstanding youth. To apply for the 2021 Youth of the Year please see www.arabianhorses.org/ahyayoty.

Applications are due September 1st.

About Arabian Horse Association

Arabian Horse Association (AHA) is an equine association serving more than 85,000 Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horse owners across North America. AHA registers and maintains a database of more than one million Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses. AHA produces five national horse championship events yearly and recognizes over 344 Arabian local and regional horse shows and distance rides. AHA promotes the Arabian breed and ownership through educational and outreach programs.