



# AHYA President's Corner

## *2024, Jatelyn "Bug" Burcham – AHYA President*

2024 Convention

AHYA President Presentation to General Assembly



Hello everyone! My name is Jatelyn Burcham, more widely known as Bug, and I'm happily serving as your Arabian Horse Youth Association President! I am from Region 11, currently sixteen years old, a senior in high school, and love every aspect of Arabian Horses and what this industry brings to our lives. My mom, who is joining me here as a delegate for our local club, started riding Arabians about thirty-five years ago which has led me to share the passion of the horse. I have been taking lessons since I could walk, started showing in lead-line, making my way to walk-trot, then walk/trot/canter, and now I am in my final years as a Youth. I show in Western and Hunter Pleasure, hoping to soon begin my journey in the Ranch and Halter divisions. My passion for the breed does not stop in the show ring, in the past I've had the privilege of manning the gate at Regionals, passing out Lucky Ponies for AHPA, doing flag demonstrations, running horse camps, and doing equine demonstrations for our breed. I started serving on the board as the Region 11 Youth Director, climbing up

as the AHYA Secretary, and now standing up here today as your 2024-2025 AHYA President. To say that I am grateful to take this position is an understatement. I am filled to the brim with gratitude and my heart is overflowing.

My term started in July when I was elected at the AHYA Convention at our Youth Nationals. We had two other people run for AHYA President and I find that an amazing accomplishment for AHYA. Thankfully, we were able to keep these two candidates on our board. Please allow me to welcome Rachel Vaughn, our Vice President, Addyson Runde, our Treasurer, and Alexis Peterson, our Secretary. These young women have more than proven that they are up to the tasks of talking to commissions, standing on scary stages, surveying our membership, and so much more. There are a lot of things that go behind the curtains of AHYA, but we are more than happy to do it for our growing membership. This year, our Youth Nationals was a little different. We didn't hold a Block Party due to poor participation in the past. We also held our Golfcart Parade earlier in the week and did it in the Jim Norick Arena. We once again promoted the "R U Okay?" program brought in by past president Grace Smith. This program specializes in prioritizing mental health and selects a day for everyone to wear the organization's color, yellow. We continued our class song sponsors, where it's accessible except for equitation, for riders and handlers to choose which songs they wanted in their arenas during their classes. We continued with AHPA's Lucky Ponies and Chuck-a-Duck like years prior.

During my presidential year, I aspire to work with the Youth and Midsummer National Show Commission for more fun classes to take place during Youth Nationals, look into different options on how we run our annual AHYA Convention, and survey our members for more feedback. Overall, our goal is to increase youth participation and grow the industry. After all, youth are the future of our association. For the Arabian Horse Youth Association, we continue to work hard to show our membership new and shiny opportunities that are always being watered and blossoming.

To wrap up my first-ever speech as President, I would like to thank some important figures in my life, who have stuck with me through it all and have supported me near and far. Heartfelt thank you's go to my Mom, my Dad, my Grandma, Bitsy Jenkner, and Emma Kalsheur. To my Mom, for always constantly pushing me to be better, I wouldn't be standing up here today without you. To my Dad, for always holding down the fort at home and allowing his horse-crazed daughter and wife to travel the country. To my grandma, for making all of my equine-related dreams come true and always holding the biggest smile whenever I jog out of the arena. To Bitsy, for always being down to be anyone's person and being there for me whenever I needed support. To Emma, my horse trainer, for restoring my confidence and making me feel like I can accomplish the world. Thank you to every one of these people and anyone I didn't name. I can't believe I get to hold the title of AHYA President and I'm excited for another fantastic year!