

American Youth Horse Council

6660 #D-451 Delmonico, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
info@ayhc.com phone: 719-594-9778 fax: 775-256-0382 www.AYHC.com



For Immediate Release: March 7, 2008

**For more information contact: American Youth Horse Council,
Cindy Schonholtz, Executive Director**

Phone: 719-440-7255

Email: info@ayhc.com

Youth Horse Enthusiasts Gather for 31st Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium

Beautiful weather and southern hospitality greeted more than 300 youth horse enthusiasts as they arrived in Raleigh, North Carolina for the 31st Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium on February 29 through March 2, 2008. Volunteers, teens, industry professionals and other youth horse enthusiasts gathered to participate in roundtable discussions, attend lectures and arena sessions, network and honor leaders in the youth horse industry. Outgoing AYHC President Christy Landwehr commented on the event, "The 2008 AYHC Symposium in North Carolina was a pleasure to be a part of. The educational sessions and pre-conference tours were fantastic and our hosts in North Carolina should be commended!"

The weekend started with two fabulous pre-conference tours. Tour number one took attendees to the beautiful horse country of Southern Pines, North Carolina. The day started with a tour and educational demonstrations at the NCSU Southern Pines Equine Health Center, continued with a great barbeque lunch and was finalized with two incredible experiences at top horse farms. Attendees visited Willard Rhodes Farm where they were dazzled by demonstration by 6-time U.S. National 4 In Hand Driving Champion Bill Long. Tamarack Hill Farm was next and Denny Emerson, U.S. Eventing Association Hall of Fame trainer and coach oversaw a spectacular demonstration of eventing skills to attendees. The second pre-conference event included tours of North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine as well as their Equine Science Unit and beautiful local horse facility, MacNair's Country Acres.

AYHC reaches out to our teen leaders offering them educational sessions geared at their interests and team building and ice breaking activities aimed especially at them. The teens were asked to complete presentations titled, "Saving Our Trails." They received information on this subject from Libbie Johnson, board member for the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. The youth also participated in other activities including demonstrations by the NCSU Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. The enthusiastic, talented and dedicated group of youth in attendance show that the future of the horse industry is in very capable hands!

The American Youth Horse Council extends a sincere thank you all those who helped make the event a great success, especially our hosts – The North Carolina State University Extension Horse Husbandry and the North Carolina 4-H Horse Program! Make plans to join us for the 32nd Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 27 – 29, 2009!

Corporate Sponsors

**AAEP FOUNDATION ▲ STONE MODEL HORSES
▲ ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL ▲ EQUUS ▲ BLAZE MAGAZINE**

Symposium Sponsors

**Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association
American Quarter Horse Association ♦ American Paint Horse Association
Storey Publishing ♦ Equioxx-Merial ♦ Horsecity.com ♦ Purina
Penn State University Equine Science ♦ U of L Equine Industry Program
North American Equine Ranching Information Council ♦ Wrangler ♦ NC Horse Council
Cornell University ♦ NY State 4-H Program ♦ National High School Rodeo Association
♦ Certified Horsemanship Association ♦ Western Horseman**

AYHC is the umbrella organization providing encouragement, communication, leadership & resources to serve and promote the youth horse industry.