

# American Youth Horse Council

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## Youth Horse Enthusiasts Gather for 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium

Youth horse enthusiasts from across the country gathered in Lincoln, Nebraska for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium on March 27 through March 29, 2009. Volunteers, teens, industry professionals and other youth horse enthusiasts participated in roundtable discussions, attended lectures and arena sessions, networked and honored leaders in the youth horse industry. AYHC President and symposium chair, Kathy Anderson commented on the event, “We were very excited to bring this unique event to our state and the University of Nebraska. Thank you to the volunteers, attendees, sponsors, exhibitors and AYHC board members who helped make this a great event.”

The weekend started with a fabulous pre-conference tour. The day kicked-off with a visit to Anderson Thoroughbred Farm where attendees learned about the Thoroughbred racing industry in the Midwest. From there, a tour of Voegler’s equine reproduction center included a demonstration of ultrasound technology. The day continued with a visit to Chance Ridge veterinary clinic and a roping demonstration by the Nebraska Rope Horse Association. Rounding out the day was a stop at *The Fort* Western Store for some great shopping!

A full weekend of educational sessions and activities geared specifically at the teen leaders made it a great event for young horse enthusiasts to meet peers from across the country. The youth participated in a variety of activities throughout the weekend including a critical thinking project “Disaster Planning for Your Horse,” that culminated in Public Service Announcements by each group about disaster planning in their region of the country. Learning how to rope, and a mini-judging clinic and other activities were offered to the youth in attendance. The enthusiastic and talented youth in attendance show that the future of the horse industry is in very capable hands!

Other attendees enjoyed the incredible networking with youth leaders from far and near during the roundtables. Speakers on three tracks shared their knowledge of careers in the horse industry, take home tools and games, fitness and nutrition for riding, public speaking, developing leaders and much more. Attendees were treated to arena demonstrations at the University of Nebraska’s R.B. Warren Arena on Saturday afternoon where among other things they got to see Extreme Mustang Makeover Champ Mark Lyons demonstrate his horsemanship skills.

The American Youth Horse Council extends sincere thanks to all those who helped make the event a great success, with a special thanks to our host, The University of Nebraska Lincoln. Make plans to join us for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium to be held in Lexington, Kentucky on March 19 – 21, 2010!

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