**AYHC STUDENT LEADER OF THE YEAR**

**NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Who:** American Youth Horse Council Student Leader of the Year

**What:** An annual award to recognize a student leader (age 14 – 19) who has offered outstanding leadership to young people within the horse industry. This top leader introduces newcomers to the horse industry, mentors younger horsemen, and promotes the horse industry within the local community. This student accomplishes these goals in fun and innovative ways. Any member in good standing with AYHC may nominate a deserving student leader (age 14 –19). Self-nomination is also allowed. The nominee is not required to be a current AYHC member. The nominee should be considered a good ambassador of the youth horse industry for this national recognition.

**When:** Nominations can be made to the AYHC Awards Committee (see deadline on AYHC website)

**Why:** Peer mentoring is very important to the development of youth. Having a strong youth leader in a horse club or association is a great attribute and helps keep the club vibrant and growing. Kids love looking up to other kids and a good role model should be recognized for his/her contributions. Any student leader who volunteers time and effort to the youth horse industry should be recognized as a potential candidate for the award.

**Nomination Requirements:**

* Electronically submit a completed nomination form
* Include 3 photos illustrating the nominee’s involvement in horse and/or leadership activities.
	+ **Photos must be jpeg format** and at least 300 dpi.
* Submission should be formatted in 12 point Arial font, single spaced (hand written applications will not be accepted). Any one of your references may be contacted for additional information/clarification.
* Attach a minimum of 2 letters of recommendation/support. (maximum of 5 letters)
	+ At least one of these letters must be from a youth
	+ Letter writers may not be related to the nominee

**Selection process:**

* When we receive your nomination, the nominee will be assigned to a committee member who will contact them to arrange a telephone interview. Questions will be provided in advance of the interview.
* Following the interview, the committee will review and evaluate the applications and interviews, and then select this year’s recipient based on the following criteria:
	+ The nominee’s accomplishments in the horse industry
	+ The nominee’s specific contributions to the youth horse industry
* Nominees will be recognized in the quarterly AYHC newsletter.
* The award winner will be recognized at the AYHC Symposium and will receive a one year AYHC Student Membership and a $500 scholarship.

**Nominations not meeting the above requirements will not be considered**

Submit your completed nomination to AYHC via Judgify (see link on AYHC website). Questions may be directed to Danette McGuire at the same email or 817.320.2005.

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**AWARD NOMINATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nominee Name** |  |
| Affiliations |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |
| Address |  |
| City, State and Zip |  |
| **Nominated by** |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |

**Please answer the following questions specifically. Please number your responses. Your submission (not including this cover page) should be 1500 words or less.**

1. How long has the nominee been involved in the horse industry?
2. What is the nominee’s current role(s) within horse industry?
3. What do other youth say about him/her?
4. What is the most important thing you want us to know about this student and their contributions to their horse community? Why are they the best candidate?
5. Identify and briefly elaborate on the next 3 most important contributions/reasons this student has made to the horse industry/community.
6. Briefly, tell us a little bit about yourself and your relationship to the nominee.

Final Check List

\_\_\_ Nomination Form

\_\_\_ Three photos (at least 300 dpi)

\_\_\_ Youth Letter of Support

\_\_\_ Adult Letter of Support

\_\_\_ Submit all documents via Judgify link provided on AYHC website

*Revised: 11/2023*