



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2019
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Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show Has Another Successful Year in Oklahoma City



(29-JULY-18) AURORA, COLO. – The [Arabian Horse Association's](#) (AHA) [2018 Youth National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show](#) had another great year in Oklahoma City at the State Fair Park from July 21 – 29. Event attendees enjoyed a great horse show and all the excitement the city had to offer; giving an economic impact of over \$5 million to the area.

During the eight day show over 700 horses and 2,600 exhibitors, trainers, family members and spectators from all over the United States and Canada came to the horse show. Exhibitors ranged in ages - from five to 18 - and showed their horses in a variety of different disciplines. Over 250 classes in three arenas were going during the show.

Disciplines ranged from Western, Hunter and Saddle Seat Pleasure to Dressage, Reining, Driving, Show Hack and Halter. Trail, Hunter Over Fences, Sidesaddle and Sport Horse In-Hand – all competing for the goal of Youth National Champion, red roses and the bronze trophy.

Memories were made as newcomers to Youth Nationals had their first ride and those graduating out of the Youth show, had their last ones. Laughter, tears, victory laps and water balloon fights were all a natural part of the Youth Nationals landscape. One won't find a more fun horse show or more love for the Arabian breed than at this event, which showcases the next generation of horse trainers, amateur exhibitors, owners and lovers of the Arabian horse.



One such exhibitor, Shelby Howey, had quite a show. It was her very first-ever Youth Nationals on a horse she trained herself. She also worked and paid her own way to attend the show. All of her hard work and dedication paid off because she came away with three National Championship titles and memories to last a lifetime. You can learn more about Shelby's story at <https://youtu.be/q4rPkjyzZi8>.

Another event attendee, Josh Shino, was a youth competitor himself but now attends Youth Nationals as a horse trainer to young competitors. He reflects back to his youth competition days and how he now is helping other youth reach their riding goals in his interview at <https://youtu.be/ab5NJAluSWk>.

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Before Youth Nationals kicked off, the 15th Annual [Arabian Professional and Amateur Horsemen's Association](#) (APAHA) Youth Nationals Clinics were held on Thursday, July 19, with clinicians Jill Mitchell talking about Trail, and Rob Bick and Caralyn Schroter talking about Country English Pleasure.

Youth Nationals isn't just about riding either. The [Arabian Horse Youth Association](#) (AHYA) hosted their Annual Convention and Board of Directors meeting for the kids who are interested in leadership and taking an active role in the association. Skills which will lay the groundwork for the future of the Arabian horse are learned, leaders are elected and ideas discussed. The breed is in good hands with the current AHYA members and Board. To learn more about AHYA or how to be involved, visit arabianhorses.org/Youth.



A Color and Water War followed the AHYA Convention and gave the kids the chance to cool down during the summery day. The kids also had a dance and ice cream social later that day which was sponsored by [Markel Insurance](#). There even was an official king and queen nominated!

Exhibitors feasted Saturday, July 21 during the Welcome Dinner hosted by [Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau](#).

Among competing in horse show classes, attendees also had the chance to compete in various kickball and dodgeball games throughout the show in the arenas. Competition was definitely fierce! There was also designated youth room dubbed the "Chill Box" where kids could come hang out, watch movies, play games and participate in daily crafts. When not crafting, kids were out hunting for golden horseshoes hidden daily throughout the State Fair Park. The lucky few who found the horseshoes received a prize which was sponsored by [Awards Recognition Concepts](#) (ARC).

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First time exhibitors at Youth Nationals lined up for a photo on Sunday, July 22 to get their picture taken. We had quite a few first-timers and we were excited to welcome them!

Thursday, July 26 the dogs took to the Jim Norick Arena to compete in the Annual Dog Costume Class and Dog Races. Teams got creative this year and it was definitely a tough decision for our judges.



Show goers and the public tested their horse knowledge on Friday, July 27 during the Arabian Horse Novice Hippology Contest from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. which saw a great turnout of test takers.

To round out the show on Saturday, July 28 exhibitors aging out of AHYA were recognized by a Graduating Senior Ceremony. We look forward to seeing them continue their love of the Arabian horse for many years to come through AHA.

Horse shows and fun activities are the main draw for exhibitors, however bringing in the public to learn more about the Arabian horse is also a goal of the show. Youth Nationals hosted the [Total Arabian Interaction Learning](#) (T.A.I.L) tours throughout the show and brought in more than 110 people from the general public to meet Arabian horses.



Tour attendees were taken on a tour of the grounds, walked through hands-on learning stations about feed, tack and horse ware and in the end watched a few classes with an expert tour guide and the chance to meet an Arabian horse up close and personal.

The 2018 Arabian & Half-Arabian Youth Nationals Championship Horse Show can only be deemed a success for its third year in Oklahoma City. Thank you to all the volunteers, staff and of course, the exhibitors who attended the event and made memories that will last a lifetime!

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AHA is a major equine association serving 84,000 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 championship events, recognizes over 392 Arabian horse shows and distance rides and provides activities, education, and programs that promote breeding and ownership.

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