



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Arabian Horse Association Announces its 2018 ‘Youth of the Year’ Award Winner

(17-November-18) AURORA, COLO. – Arabian Horse Association (AHA) youth members are exceptional! The [Youth of the Year Award](#) honors one outstanding youth member who exemplifies character and dedication to excellence in this or her academic and community achievements, as well as contributions to the Arabian horse industry and AHA.



In 2018, one candidate distinguished herself with a passion for the Arabian horse breed in bringing industry individuals together to help others.

AHA is proud to announce **Miss Ashley Lounsberry**, from Pawnee, Ill., as the honored winner of the 2018 Youth of the Year Award.

Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman’s approach to life. Through her high school career, she has taken on numerous volunteer and service positions. She has a desire for serving and has been a very active member of her school’s key club and National Honors Society. In 2017 she received the Region XI Youth Ambassador Award for her success in the show pen and her time spent doing a community service project with her horse. For the community service project, Ashley visited a local nursing home with her horse and interacted with the residents. The residents and staff enjoyed spending time with the horse, and it was rewarding to see how a simple project with an Arabian horse impacted so many lives in a positive manner.

Moreover, our Youth of the Year has and is an important part of the [Arabian Horse Youth Association](#). She served as the Region 11 Youth Vice Director, and was elected as the AHYA Secretary in 2018. During her years as the Region 11 Youth Vice Director and AHYA Secretary, she has created new activities and fundraising opportunities in her region.

Her efforts within the Arabian horse community have led her to strive to be a positive influence on AHYA as a role model for those who aspire to become further involved in the Arabian horse community. She believes that the Arabian horse youth community can and will grow – that youth are the stepping stones to a bright future.

Her passion, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support of the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that make Ashley shine in a talented group of youth at AHA. We would like to present her with the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$1,000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association.

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Ashley Lounsberry is a leader among her peers, serving her breed and others with a selfless attitude and the heart of a champion. AHA is proud to call her our 2018 Youth of the Year.



AHA would also like to congratulate, Miss Marianna Graziadio from Region 1 as the first runner-up for Youth of the Year and earning a \$500 scholarship sponsored by [All Things Equine](#). Marianna has been a very active and important member in her community. She served as a Ticktocker with the National Charity League. Through this organization Marianna has given numerous volunteer and community service hours that have helped her give back and strengthen her community. Beyond this Marianna has been a very active member of her school's Equestrian Team and serves as their captain. She also is advocating the importance of the sport to school representatives that will ensure the future of equestrian sports in the district high school.

AHA also congratulates Miss Sophia Janssen-Madden from Region 5, as the second runner-up. Sophia is extremely involved in her equestrian activities and community. She has competed on her local judging team, was the youth secretary of Region 5, and is a community volunteer. She is a hard worker, passionate and determined in all that she does. Congratulations to all!

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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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