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The Arabian Horse Association Announces the 2019 Youth of the Year Award Winner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Aurora, CO – November 21, 2019 – 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 2019, 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 Nina Barretts**, from Holland, Pennsylvania, as the honored winner of the 2019 Youth of the Year Award. Nina receives the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$1,000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association.

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. Nina has a desire for serving and takes many opportunities to help those in her local community with over 60 hours of community service work. In 2019, Nina was inducted into the National English Honors Society for exemplary work in honors level English classes throughout High School. She has been a member of the French Honors Society all of her High School career and a distinguished honor roll student with a GPA over 4.0. This year she was also hand-picked to attend the National Youth Leadership

Forum: Law and CSI in Washington D.C. The experience from this event helped solidify her dreams to work in the Criminal Justice field.

Nina is an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. She didn't start riding until she was 13, but she has taken advantage of her few short years in the industry. Her work has ranged from helping teach summer camps at her barn, to being an assistant trainer, and even showing at her first A rated show this last year. As a late bloomer in the industry, she sees the benefit in having Academy classes at more shows and would like to see the Academy division grow to provide more opportunities for other young riders to get their foot in the door.



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Mr. Payne Harper from Region 9 is the first runner-up for Youth of the Year. He receives a \$500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine.

Payne has been a very active and important member of both his community and the Arabian Horse Community. He has a huge heart and after hearing about some major bullying going on in his region, Payne and fellow youth Cole Reser stepped up and started the Ride Up and Ride On Campaign against bullying. Payne is passionate about helping other youth exhibitors know that they are not alone and that they can feel comfortable telling people when they are being bullied. He is also trying to bring awareness to this problem and empower others to help stop and call out bullying.

We would like to congratulate our outstanding youth. To apply for the 2020 Youth of the Year please see www.arabianhorses.org/ahyayoty. Applications are due September 1st.

About Arabian Horse Association

Arabian Horse Association (AHA) is an equine association serving more than 85,000 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 five national horse championship events yearly and recognizes over 344 Arabian local and regional horse shows and distance rides. AHA promotes the Arabian breed and ownership through educational and outreach programs.