



# AHYA Youth of the Year

## *2015, Sydney Young of Region 17*



At the 2015 Annual AHA Membership Convention in Tulsa, OK it was announced that Sherwood Park, Alberta youth Sydney Young is the recipient of the 2015 AHA Youth of the Year award.

Our Youth of the Year has also been an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association, serving as the Region 17 Youth Vice Director in 2010-2013 and the Youth Director since August 2014. When Young stepped up as Youth Director she recruited 34 youth members to participate in her regional meeting. She started a Youth Regional Show committee and started numerous fundraisers during the Region 17 Championship Show.

Through a Trainer Egg and Spoon Jackpot, Silent Auction, Dunk Tank, and a t-shirt Sponsorship she was able to raise enough money in her Region to continue to support their Regional Scholarship. At the national level, this young lady was elected as this year's AHYA Treasurer and is also the Canadian Nationals Youth Committee Chair.

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

Young's credentials, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support for the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that we, as the Arabian Horse Association want to represent as our Youth of the Year. We would like to present her with the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$1000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association!

Sydney Young 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 2015 'Youth of the Year'.

AHA would also like to congratulate, Miss Taylor Kyse from Region 3 as the first runner-up for 'Youth of the Year' also earning a \$500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine and Miss Natalie Alves from Region 17, as the second runner-up. Congrats to all!

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Below is the transcript of the Youth of the Year Award results presentation from the 2015 AHA Annual Membership Convention in Denver, CO. The presentation was made by 2015 Youth of the Year Selection Sub-Committee Chair, Debbie Price of Region 1.

Thank you, it is an honor to serve as the chair of the Youth of the Year sub-committee. I'd like to begin by recognizing those who joined me in selecting the 2015 winner:

AHA President, Cynthia Richardson

AHA Vice-President, Nancy Harvey

AHA Marketing Manager, Julian McPeak

Joan Rose, Youth of the Year sub-committee member

AHA youth members are anything but average! The Youth of the Year award honors one outstanding youth member annually. Criteria for this prestigious award are based on his or her achievements and contributions to the Arabian horse industry, AHA and his or her community. Our past winners have been outstanding ambassadors for the breed and have gone on to represent us exceptionally well – not just in the Arabian industry but in the equine industry as a whole.

Each year, our committee is privileged to review these applications, learn about some of our brightest youth members and interview our final candidates. Each of the finalists presented their own strengths, passions and insights. We continue to be amazed each year at the quality of youth members that are a part of this organization.

Region 17 has good reason to be proud of their active youth members and in particular a young lady named Natalie Alves.

Natalie is extremely involved in her school and community. She has been a member of her school's Senior Leadership program, taking leadership roles in school activities and helping orient students in their transition to high school. Natalie is also extremely active in the Arabian horse breed, having grown up with Arabian horses. She has competed at Youth Nationals and Canadian Nationals, in a variety of disciplines for many years and has had the honor of carrying the Canadian flag numerous times. Beyond this Natalie is extremely involved in her local AHA club putting in numerous volunteer hours helping at the shows. We congratulate Natalie on her many achievements and as Second Runner-up for Youth of the Year.



Region 3 was well represented this year by a bright and charismatic young woman, Taylor Kyse. Taylor has played a huge role in the Arabian horse Industry by serving as the Region 3 youth Director, AHYA Treasurer, and was just elected as this year's AHYA President. She is dedicated to growing youth involvement in her own region by developing dedicated and enthusiastic youth ambassadors for the future. Above this Taylor is very involved in her community and school. She excels at organizing fundraisers and was elected a youth representative for the Red Cross and organized an assembly for her high

school to help educate her peers about preparing for a disaster. Taylor is not only passionate about the Arabian horse, but is also highly involved in music through her school. Our first runner up for Youth of the Year will be awarded a \$500 scholarship sponsored by All Things Equine. We congratulate Taylor, the 2015 first runner up for Youth of the Year.

With so many bright futures placed before us, it was certainly difficult to choose a single winner. This year, one candidate distinguished herself, however, with her carefully thought out goals for the Arabian breed; with her desire to help youth, her passion for others, and her perseverance in every aspect of her life. It is now my distinct honor to describe to you an outstanding youth from Region 17.

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Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. Through her High School career she was able to study overseas in South-East Asia. She spent 3 months traveling and studying International Business, English, World Issues, and Physical Education. This experience opened up her eyes to the world and she enjoyed hearing the stories of all the different people she met and each unique lifestyle they had to share. Prior to this she traveled to Africa where she was able to take in the traditional culture and food of the region. These experiences showed her what an incredible world we live in.

This enduring young woman has also spent time volunteering for Hearts in Action where she led a group of 10 year olds with disabilities. Her compassion can be seen as each child left a lasting impression on her heart. Beyond this, this young woman has been able to earn her diploma in Advanced Professional Esthetics allowing her to pursue her passion in the fashion industry. She has been very successful as she has participated in the Western Canada Fashion Week and plans to put on her own show September of next year.

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Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present, from Sherwood Park, Alberta and Region 17, your 2015 Youth of the Year, Miss Sydney Young.

