



AHYA Youth of the Year

2024 AHA Youth of the Year: Hannah Hiiva, Region 5

2024 Convention

Youth of the Year Presentation to General Assembly

Delivered November 17, 2023

Presentation by Shannon Bedell

Now it is time for our Youth of the Year presentation. I would first like to begin by thanking the Arabian Horse Foundation for generously sponsoring a \$5,000 Scholarship for our 2024 Youth of the Year. I would also like to recognize those who served in selecting the 2024 winners:

Cindy Howey, Youth Committee Vice Chair

Annaliese Himmel, Region 9

Hilary Hoffman, Region 10

Jennifer Goslin, Region 9

Shannon Bedell, Region 5

AHA youth members are anything but average! The Youth of the Year award honors annually one outstanding youth member. Criteria for this prestigious award is based on his or her achievements and contributions to the Arabian horse industry, to AHA and lastly to their 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 horse industry but in the equine industry as a whole.

Each year, the committee is privileged to review these applications, giving them a chance to learn about some of our brightest youth members and then personally interview the final candidates. Each of the finalists presented their own strengths, passions and insights in various areas. They continue to be amazed each year with the quality of the youth members that are a part of this organization.



Region 11 has reason to be proud of a particular young lady named Jatelyn Burcham. Jatelyn is extremely involved in AHYA, serving as the AHYA President. She has competed at multiple levels in the show ring, but finds that her experience with AHYA has been a transformational journey, shaping her personal values and career goals. She is a hard worker, passionate and determined in all that she does. We congratulate Jatelyn on her many achievements and as the Second Runner-up for Youth of the Year.

Region 12 was also well represented this year by a bright and charismatic young woman by the name of Mikayla Clement. Mikayla has been a big part of AHYA in and out of the show ring. She has served as the Region 12 Youth Director, focusing a lot on regional activities and ways to engage more youth members.

Mikayla is very active in her community from 4-H to church and assists in multiple fundraisers and educational events. Mikayla wants to continue her involvement in AHYA and hopes to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. The first runner up for the Youth of the Year will be awarded a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Arabian Horse Association. Congratulations Mikayla for being the 2024 first runner up for the Youth of the Year and being the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship.



With so many bright futures placed before us, it was certainly difficult to choose a single winner. This year, one candidate distinguished herself, with her passion for the Arabian horse breed; with her desire to help others, and to bring people in the industry together. It is now my distinct honor to describe to you an outstanding youth from Region 5.

Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. She currently takes on a lot of leadership roles within her school and specifically has been interested in the social media side of things. She is the editor in chief of her school yearbook and also very active in her local FFA chapter.



Hiiva.

Moreover, our Youth of the Year has and is an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. She has served two years as the Region 5 Youth Director, helping fundraise over \$11,000 for their youth account. Beyond this she is involved in helping foster a new junior youth board to help improve the leadership skills of even more youth members and set up more youth for success within AHYA.

Her passion, pursuit of excellence, personality, and support of the Arabian horse are just some of the attributes that we, as Arabian Horse Association members want to represent us as our Youth of the Year. We would like to present her with the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$5000 scholarship sponsored by the Arabian Horse Foundation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present to you, from Yelm, Washington and Region 5, your 2024 Youth of the Year, Miss Hannah