

Kathryn Messana



My name is Kathryn Messana. I am 18 years old and I am from Michigan. I graduated from high school in the Spring, and this fall I began at Saginaw Valley State University where I study Computer Science. I have been riding horses since I was 4 years old. While I started in Saddle seat and then Hunt seat, I have now been riding in dressage for the past few years. I own a Morgan horse named SCMF Winged Warrior, who we call, Wing. Last year, I rode Wing in dressage at the Morgan Grand National and World Championship horse show, and we won the Reserve World Championship for Intro Junior Exhibitor Dressage. This year I will be showing three horses. Wing and I will compete in Intro and Training Level dressage, and I will be showing another horse, SCMF Senator Ted in Intro dressage. I will also be showing a third horse, SCMF Winged Victory in Classic Pleasure Driving. Aside from horses, I have been very academically involved throughout my life as well. When I

graduated in May, I did so as Valedictorian with a 4.5 GPA. I was also a National Merit Finalist, meaning my SAT score was among the top fifth of a percent of the country. Service has always been important to me as well. I gathered over 150 service hours throughout high school in various activities. I continue to be involved in service projects as I am now a member of a foundation which focuses on service at my university. In addition to my academics, horse-related activities, and service, I always like to find time to spend with my family. I have one brother named Joey and a dog named Reagan. My entire family has always been very supportive of all my endeavors. I would really like to win the Youth of the Year Contest because I think it would both help me and allow me to help others. When I was graduating and deciding what I wanted to do with my life, I knew I needed to combine academics and horses. I decided to study computer science in hopes of getting an at home job which could financially supplement me while I train horses. I started college this fall, so that half of the plan is underway. I think that being a part of, but even more so, winning, this contest would allow me to make valuable connections which could help me along with the other half of my plan. Furthermore, I think winning this contest would give me a great platform to help others. I would love to use what I am learning, majoring in Computer Science, to create a platform where I could help other youth Morgan enthusiasts as they journey into our breed. I could provide advice, study tips, or even just a supportive voice because I know how stressful times can be. I would also use this platform and the knowledge it has brought me to promote the Morgan breed in dressage. Morgans are becoming more and more prevalent in dressage, and this platform would allow me to be a voice of encouragement for dressage riders looking to venture into the Morgan breed.