



The American Morgan Horse Association Youth (AMHAY) is an international organization of young people who have a common interest in the Morgan horse, America's oldest breed. With youth members in the United States, Canada, and all over the world, AMHAY offers a variety of programs that challenge members to become involved, to learn, and to develop competence in all areas of the horse industry.

As they work with the Morgan horse, members develop a sense of sportsmanship and fair play, learn citizenship skills, master leadership skills, and develop discipline and a sense of responsibility for themselves, their horses, and their clubs.

The Morgan youth program is designed to bring out the best in its members no matter what their skills or interests. Owning a Morgan horse is not a requirement for membership. Membership in AMHAY is open to all young people who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the previous year. All young people interested in improving their horsemastership skills and management skills are invited to become AMHAY members.



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## AMHA Medal Classes

Excellence in equitation is recognized through the AMHA Medal Classes held at local and regional Morgan shows. Junior riders in all parts of the country compete to win AMHA Silver Medals in each of the six equitation seats: Saddle Seat, Western Seat, Hunter Seat on the Flat, Hunter Seat over Fences, Dressage, and Reining Seat. Riders qualify to ride in the Gold Medal Finals at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show by placing first or second in an AMHA Silver Medal class. A Gold Medal, the highest AMHA equitation honor, is presented to the winner in each of the six seats.

## AMHA Youth of the Year Contest

The title of AMHAY Youth of the Year is one of the highest honors presented to a Morgan youth. The contest for the coveted award is composed of four divisions: horsemastership, judging, an oral presentation, and a written test.

The winners of preliminary Youth of the Year contests, held at many local and regional shows, qualify to compete in the Youth Finals at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show in October.

The award for winning the AMHA Youth of the Year Contest is a month-long trip to a country of the winner's choice, as an ambassador for AMHAY, promoting the Morgan horse and sharing the horsemastership skills learned in the Morgan youth program. The reserve award is a week-long trip to a trainer or breeder of his or her choice.

## AMHAY Horse Bowl

Horse Bowl is a fast recall game in which teams compete to see who knows the most about horses. Four players on each team square off to be first to correctly answer questions about genetics, nutrition, showing, anatomy, etc. Local competitions are held by AMHA clubs and the national competition is held each year at the Grand National.

## AMHAY Horsemastership Program

The horsemastership program offers AMHAY members an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge to become competent and independent horse persons. Its five achievement levels (Bulrush, Woodbury, Sherman, Black Hawk, and Justin Morgan) teach members to ride, drive, judge, train and properly care for their horses.

They learn about nutrition, conditioning, health care, breeding, conformation and other important equine information. AMHAY awards badges, prizes and certifi-

cates of achievement to members who complete the first four levels of the program, a savings bond to the fourth and fifth level, and a jacket to those who achieve the prestigious fifth level of horsemastership.

## AMHAY Horse Judging Program

The AMHAY Horse Judging Program teaches members how to evaluate horses in a logical, step-by-step method in both in-hand and performance classes. Competing in local, regional, and national competitions, members learn the vocabulary to explain the reasons why one horse should be selected over another.

## The Grand National & World Championship Show

The conclusion of the Morgan show season is the exciting Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show held in Oklahoma City each October. Young people from throughout the United States and Canada compete for top honors at this prestigious show. The Youth of the Year Finals, Horse Bowl, Judging Contest, Medal Class Finals, as well as Junior Exhibitor and Equitation World Championships, offer exciting and challenging competition for AMHAY members.

## Membership Benefits

**AMHA invites you to join our association. As a member of AMHA, you will receive the following:**

1. AMHA membership card.
2. Access the AMHA Members Only Web Site.
3. The Network newsletter.
4. Reduced rates on Morgan horse registry transactions.
5. Discounts on Morgan retail products.
6. Horsemastership requirement booklet.

**You will also have the opportunity to:**

1. Pass the AMHAY Horsemastership Achievement Levels.
2. Receive information about local youth clubs and compete for outstanding club awards.
3. Enter AMHA Youth of the Year Contest.
4. Participate in the AMHA Open Competition Programs.
5. Participate in the AMHA Photo Contest, Literary Contest, and Art Contest
6. Participate in the Pathways Pleasure Ride/Drive Program.
7. Apply for several scholarships, including those offered by the American Morgan Horse Institute.