



AMHA

American Morgan
Horse Association

www.morganhorse.com

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LOCAL EQUESTRIAN EARNS NATIONAL TITLE

SHELBURNE, VT —The 2009 American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) Youth of the Year Contest took place at this year's Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show, held October 10-17 at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. Fifteen young women from across the country qualified at local and regional contests to compete for a month-long trip. It is with great enthusiasm that AMHA honors Christine Harb of Plaistow, New Hampshire, as its 2009 Youth of the Year winner.

The contestants participate in a rigorous four-part test throughout the course of two days. Included are a written exam, an oral presentation and interview, a ridden or driven horsemanship pattern, and a judging division with a reasons portion. Harb was second in both the written and horsemanship portions, and she won the judging portion of the contest. "I was very proud because I worked hard all summer on improving my judging," she said.

Harb is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she is an animal science major with plans to be an equine veterinarian. In 2006 and 2007 Harb was the Reserve Youth of the Year, traveling to Morgan training facilities in Michigan and Illinois.

"Winning the youth contest was overwhelming because I had been working toward that goal since I was in my early teens," Harb said. "I'm not sure where I would like to go yet, but I can't wait to promote the Morgan horse and Morgan youth abroad!"

"I am very proud of our Youth of the Year contestants and of the continued growth of this program brought about by the hard work and dedication of so many volunteers, sponsors, and alumnae of the program," said Amanda Ryan, AMHA's Membership Services and Promotions Coordinator. The winner's trip is generously sponsored by the Cynthia Elaine Epperson Trust.

Each year, dozens of youth contests are held across the country, hosted by horse shows, state Morgan clubs, and local youth groups. The Youth of the Year program offers participants an opportunity to improve his or her skills in the area of horsemanship, sportsmanship, public speaking, decision-making, and judging. The senior (age 14-21) winner of a local contest qualifies to compete in the Youth of the Year Finals, held each year at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show. The winner of this prestigious title receives a month-long trip, during which he or she acts as an ambassador for the Morgan breed.

Founded in 1909, the American Morgan Horse Association is a non-profit organization serving more than 50,000 Morgan horse owners, breeders, exhibitors, and enthusiasts throughout the United States. AMHA serves as a parent organization to more than 100 recognized Morgan horse clubs and national service organizations.

You can learn more about AMHA at www.morganhorse.com.

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