

American Morgan Horse Association, Inc.

*Presents*



**AMHAY Merit Program**  
**Youth Workbook**  
**LEVEL FOUR**  
**BLACK HAWK**



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AMHAY Merit Program

# Black Hawk Level

## LEVEL FOUR: BLACK HAWK

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# AMHAY Merit Program **Black Hawk Level**



## **MISSION**

The AMHA Youth Programs are designed to help our youth become educated horsemen who are civically minded, passionate advocates of the Morgan Horse as well as advocates of horse sport and horse ownership.

## **RULES**

1. This program is open to AMHAY members, 21 years and under, who are interested in learning more about Morgans and safe horsemanship while participating in Morgan promotion and community service.

2. There are 5 levels of achievement once AMHA Youth membership has been established:

- 1) Bulrush
- 2) Woodbury
- 3) Sherman
- 4) Black Hawk
- 5) Justin Morgan

Information on the first two levels is available at [www.morganhorse.com](http://www.morganhorse.com)

3. Level requirements do not need to be completed at the same time, although you must complete one level before progressing to the next.

4. Complete the checklist at the end of this packet and email to [Nicole@morganhorse.com](mailto:Nicole@morganhorse.com)

5. Members may work on the merit levels as individuals or in a youth Team. The first two levels may be completed with any horse, but third level and above needs to be completed with a Morgan Horse.

Illustrations by Nancy Eidam & Jeanne Mellin Herrick



AMHAY Merit Program

# Black Hawk Level

## INTRODUCTION

In this level of the Merit Program, you will be expected to demonstrate many skills and levels of Horsemanship, as well as document your experiences in the many facets of the equine industry. You will also be expected to contribute to your community by performing hours of community service.

The documentation of completion of this level will be in many forms. You will be required to video tasks, write essays, take photographs, and supply paperwork from places that you will be completing some of your requirements.

The first step to completing this level is to submit the application in the packet and send it to [nicole@morganhorse.com](mailto:nicole@morganhorse.com).

You will also be required to sign all of the press release forms in this packet and send in with your application. This will allow AMHA to use the documentation in media and education related to our Merit Program.

Once your application is approved, you can then move on to complete the four phases of this level that include:

- Horsemanship
- Experiences/Internships/Exposures
- Tasks
- Community Service

AMHAY Merit Program  
**Black Hawk Level**



**BLACK HAWK MERIT LEVEL APPLICATION**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School you are currently attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If college, what is your major:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list any jobs you have held/hold:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Horse History: Please include a brief description of your history of horses (jobs/horses owned/lessons/leases, etc).**

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**Will you be working with a USEF Professional to complete the Horsemanship Phase of this level?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, who is the professional:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Provide professionals contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form along with the materials releases to [Nicole@morganhorse.com](mailto:Nicole@morganhorse.com).  
Any questions please call (859) 448-5109 or email [nicole@morganhorse.com](mailto:nicole@morganhorse.com)



## 1: HORSEMANSHIP

**In this phase you will complete four mandatory tasks in addition to five tasks of your choice from the provided list.**

**The following tasks MUST be completed and documented in video to be submitted:**

- Tack up a horse in a biting rig.
- Demonstrate biting a horse in a stall.
- Lunge a horse in a biting rig.
- Long Line a horse.

**Please complete five tasks on the following list of your choice:**

- **Compete in three different gymkhana events.**  
*Provide video documentation of all three competitions.*
- **Compete in two different AMHA Medal Classes.**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your classes.*
- **Place 1–3 in any seat equitation class (each discipline counts as one choice).**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Place 1–3 in any driving class (each discipline counts as one choice).**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Place 1–3 in any pleasure class (each discipline counts as one choice).**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Place 1–3 in a showmanship class or leader in amateur in-hand class (each class counts as one choice).**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Compete in a parade class, roadster under saddle or driving or a combined driving class.**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Compete in a hunter/jumper class or a trail class (each counts as one choice).**  
*Provide video/photo documentation and show results of your class.*
- **Successfully complete a reining pattern on a Morgan.**  
*Provide a video of your pattern and copy of the pattern.*
- **Complete a dressage pattern (each discipline counts as one choice).**  
*Provide a video of your pattern and copy of the pattern.*
- **Complete a sanctioned trail ride of 20 miles or more. Sanctioned by NATRC, ECTRA or AERC.**  
*Provide paperwork from your trail ride/entry forms/results/etc. Also provide photos/video of your ride.*
- **Show training progress over time with a young or green horse.**  
*Document your progress with journals, videos, and photos. Must be a time frame of at least three months.*

# AMHAY Merit Program Black Hawk Level



## 2: EXPOSURES/EXPERIENCES/INTERNSHIPS

**For this phase you must choose four of the following professionals to spend at least eight hours with. In this time, you will learn the tips and tricks of their trade. You must provide a video, photo, and written documentation of your experiences. A written report of at least two pages must be provided for the time spent for each of the professionals you spend time with.**

**If your equine focus for education is not on this list, please contact Nikki for approval of your idea.**

### **Choose four of these equine professionals:**

- Photographer
- Show steward
- Show secretary
- Show manager
- Dentist
- Veterinarian
- Magazine editing/articles
- Marketing/advertising
- Clothier
- Associations Management:AMHA, 4-H, FFA
- Equine/farm insurance
- PEMF (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field)
- Groom/instructor/trainer
- Farrier
- Chiropractor
- Equine massage
- Dressage or equitation scribe
- Show announcer



## 3: TASKS

**In this phase, there are three mandatory tasks to complete in addition to three tasks of your choice from the provided list.**

**The following tasks MUST be completed:**

- **Hold a position on the AMHA Youth Council, in a local Morgan club or in an FFA or 4-H Club.**  
*You must provide documentation, photos and videos of participation.*
- **Perform a riding or driving demonstration for a group of 15 people or more.**  
*Provide video/photo documentation along with flyers and advertisements for your event.*
- **Work as a counselor at a horse camp, work in a therapeutic riding program, or volunteer at a horse rescue.**  
*Provide movie/photo documentation along with signed document from manager at chosen facility stating your contribution.*

**Please complete three tasks of your choice on the following list:**

- **Serve on a show committee for a year.**  
*Provide paperwork (minutes/events/etc.) as well as signed document from committee member.*
- **Listen at a state house during a motion that effects animals—for or against.**  
*Provide documentation of the motion as well as photos.*
- **Win senior division at AMHA approved youth contest local, regional or national.**  
*Provide contest results, photos/video documentation.*
- **Build an AMHA Team and lead it for a year.**  
*Provide photos/videos of your team along with roster and points log.*
- **Organize a Morgan promotional event.**  
*Provide photo/video documentation of event along with all advertisement flyers and essay on what the even is about.*
- **Prepare lesson plans, do lessons for beginner for at least two months.**  
*Provide the lesson plans, as well as photos/videos of documentation.*







AMHAY Merit Program

# Black Hawk Level

## MATERIALS RELEASE

We, the undersigned, agree that any and all material connected with the American Morgan Horse Association's Black Hawk Level of the AMHA Merit Program becomes the property of the American Morgan Horse Association.

Written material such as test scores, judge's scores, and the calculation and method of scoring winners are strictly confidential.

The decision of the judges is final.

**I/we have read this document and execute it voluntarily.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant's Full Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Full Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

This release form must be returned to the AMHA Programs Manager along with all other documentation in the Black Hawk Level. If form is not completely and correctly filled out you will not be considered eligible to complete the level.

# AMHAY Merit Program

# Black Hawk Level



## REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST

### Level Four: Black Hawk

	DATE PASSED	APPROVED BY
<b>1. Horsemanship</b>		
Tack horse with biting rig	_____	_____
Stall biting	_____	_____
Lunging in biting rig	_____	_____
Long lining	_____	_____
Compete in three different gymkhana events.	_____	_____
Compete in two different AMHA Medal classes.	_____	_____
Place 1–3 in any seat equitation class	_____	_____
Place 1–3 in any driving class	_____	_____
Place 1–3 in any pleasure class	_____	_____
Place 1–3 in a showmanship class/ head an in-hand class	_____	_____
Compete in a parade class/roadster saddle/ bike or a combined driving class	_____	_____
Compete in a hunter/jumper class or trail class	_____	_____
Successfully complete a reining pattern	_____	_____
Complete a dressage pattern	_____	_____
Complete a sanctioned trail ride of 20 + miles	_____	_____
Show training progress with a young/green horse	_____	_____
<b>2. Exposures/Experiences/Internships</b>		
Time spent with mentor 1	_____	_____
Time spent with mentor 2	_____	_____
Time spent with mentor 3	_____	_____
Time spent with mentor 4	_____	_____



## REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST

### Level Four: Black Hawk

	DATE PASSED	APPROVED BY
<b>3. Tasks</b>		
Hold a position on the AMHA Youth council, or in a local Morgan club or FFA or 4-H	_____	_____
Perform Riding/driving demonstration	_____	_____
Work as counselor/volunteer at camp, rescue, etc.	_____	_____
Serve on a show committee for a year	_____	_____
Listen at a state house during a motion	_____	_____
Win senior division at AMHA youth contest	_____	_____
Build a AMHA Team and lead it for a year	_____	_____
Organize a Morgan promotional event	_____	_____
Prepare lesson plans, give lessons for beginner	_____	_____
<b>4. Community Service</b>		
Complete 10 hours of community service in addition to any already completed in the Merit program	_____	_____