



# Natalie Sander

Hello everyone, my name is Natalie Sander. I ride with Wingait Farms, and I am currently a senior studying agricultural business management at UW – Madison. This will be the third time I have competed at the national level for the Youth of the Year contest, and I am so excited to be able to compete in Oklahoma for my final year of eligibility! I have been riding with Wingait Farms for almost 14 years and showing competitively on and off for 8 years. I have shown saddleseat, hunt seat, western, and ranch in both pleasure and equitation classes. Competing in youth contests has been a highlight of my show career because I enjoy how the competition awards all facets of horsemanship. The speech and the pattern are my favorite aspects of the competition. I love how the speech always leads me to learning new things about the morgan horse, and how the pattern provides a new challenge for me and a horse to work on and master. After coming to college, I began looking for different ways to get involved with the greater equestrian community and found the Hooper Riding Club at UW Madison. I have held two different executive board positions within the club in the three years I have been involved. Last year, I was the Community Outreach Coordinator. In that position I worked to facilitate events for members and find volunteering opportunities. I also successfully raised money by taking unused Hooper owned tack and equipment to tack sales around the Madison area. This year, I rose to the position of President, and I am so excited to continue growing the club's reach to anyone with an interest in horses. I have many goals for my time as president, but a few that are particularly important to me are continuing to sell unused tack to raise money for the club and to host a horse judging clinic for FFA, 4H, and even Youth of the Year participants in the area to sharpen their judging skills. I would be honored to be chosen as this year's outstanding Morgan Youth of the Year because it would quantify the hard work and dedication I have put into these contests and my riding career as a whole. I feel that I have grown considerably within my relationships in the equestrian community and that I have increased my depth of equestrian knowledge since I last participated in a youth contest, and I would love to see that hard work shine through.