

# JUNIOR JUNCTION

ASHA Youth Programs | Winter 2020



2020 IN REVIEW

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# ASHA Youth Club Directory

# ASHA Youth Club Directory



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## Texas

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# Thank You Letter to My Saddlebred



**My Dear John**

Dear DJ (My Dear John),

Where do I even start? You have only been in my life for a short amount of time but in this past year and a half, you have absolutely changed my life. You have made so many of my wildest dreams come true already. To have my own American Saddlebred show horse has always been a long time dream of mine. It was always hard for me to see all my friends getting their own show horses and moving up to suit while I had no idea when I would be able to move up. Of course, I was always excited for them because they were always so surprised and happy to have their very own Saddlebred, and because of you, DJ, I now see why. The happiness and pure joy that you have brought into my life is so great. I would not trade anything in the whole world for you. You truly are the definition of a heart horse. You have touched so many people's hearts, including my own, because of your mild temperament and huge size. I love that you are one of the tallest horses at the barn, and yet you are still one of the sweetest, most tenderhearted horses. Because of you, I have been able to introduce so many people to the world of Saddlebreds.

You have truly been with me every step of the way in the short time I have had you. Thank you for stepping down from your role as a fierce show horse for a day to let me finish out my final academy show at the Kentuckiana Regional Championships and for guiding me to one of my dreams of being a regional champion. You gave me your all that day and there is no other horse I would have chosen to take on those three crazy classes with. After that day, I knew that you were something special. Only a month later I had the honor of suiting up and swinging my leg over you to take on my first ever performance class at the Kentucky Fall Classic. You knew I was nervous and you kept me safe. I knew you were checking on me every so often to make sure I was still breathing. I still cannot believe we came out of that ring with a reserve ribbon that day. Not long after that class, I got a serious concussion and was out of riding for a few weeks. Somehow, you knew something had been wrong and during my first ride back with you, you took it very slow. I know you were being extremely careful every step you took.

This past year has been extremely crazy with countless curve balls that have been thrown our way, and yet somehow you have been my steady factor. With school, Covid, and just life in general I have felt a lot more stress than normal, but when I get to see you, whether that involves riding or just spending time with you in your stall, I forget about all of it; it's just you and me. I am so thankful to get the chance to be a part of your legacy. You are not only a once in a lifetime horse, but you are my best friend, shoulder to cry on, secret keeper, and my heart horse. Few horses out there have a heart as big as yours. Thank you for all the life lessons and countless memories. I cannot wait to make so many more with you in the following years. You have a home in my heart forever.

Your person,  
Hannah

*Hannah Broughton is a junior exhibitor living in Kentucky that enjoys showing her American Saddlebred My Dear John in the Country Pleasure division. They were ASHA National Select Series Reserve Regional Champions for ASHA Region 7. Hannah is also an active and award winning member of the Brannon Barnster ASHA Youth Club.*

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)

# Thank You Letter to My Saddlebred



**Skippy Jon Jones**

Dear Skippy,

I remember the first time I saw you, a day or two after you came to the barn. You were a sweaty mess, and my trainer Stephanie was sitting on your back, saying "This horse is hard to ride." My friend Becky bought you, and because Becky is ridiculously talented, she could ride and drive you well.

I was riding the exact opposite of you. My mare, Seven, was short and fiery, unlike your 17 hands and good nature. I loved her, but it became apparent this March that we were not a great fit. And as the pandemic shut down the world, it also became apparent that regardless of the horse, my last show season as a junior exhibitor was going to be different than how I imagined it.

As a treat, right before lockdown, Stephanie let me drive you. I did not know what I was doing, but you happily trotted down the rail. I drove home that day knowing that I had caught the driving bug, but that I would probably never show in driving.

Then I got a phone call from Stephanie that just went, "I have the craziest idea. Do you want to drive Skippy at Lexington?" The answer was of course yes! and I had a month to learn how to drive well. At first, I lost control - you were strong in the bridle and were happy to take over when you felt the reins slipping from my fingers. However, I learned quickly to pull back and compromise with you. I even could sometimes make you flat walk!

We did not have clean drives in Rolex Arena - we might have cantered part of a rail and we might have brushed against the wall - but showing you there was one of the best moments of my junior exhibitor career.

And somehow, as you continued to make my dreams come true, I was flying to Louisville, Kentucky, to the World's Championship Horse Show. I had never been before, and I truly had no idea how I was ever going to get to show there. Stephanie's persistence, your talent, and Becky's generosity - and of course, my dad's support - made a huge dream come true for me.

I am so grateful for you, and the moment where we hit the green shavings and I felt the air conditioning hit my face was a moment I will never forget. Even though you are a show pleasure horse, in that moment you were convinced you were in fine harness. Your energy and exuberance took my breath away, and although in the line up I could not feel my fingers, I could not stop smiling.

Finally, in the last week I had at home before I left for college, I got to ride you. Even though you ran away with me a little bit at the canter, it was still one of the best days. I could not believe that I had gone from listening to people talk about how difficult you were to ride to showing you at Worlds and then sitting on your back. Skippy, I never owned or leased you, but you have been the most special horse to me. I cannot believe that I was lucky enough to have you and your owner in my life. You made the impossible into something achievable, and I am so grateful for you. Thank you for making my biggest dreams come true!

All the love and carrots for you,

Claire

*Claire Weber is a young American Saddlebred lover from Texas who trains at Skyview Stables and attends The University of Chicago.*

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)





### How It Works

Participants keep track of the time they spend riding. Owning a horse is not a requirement to participate. Special Saddle Time awards will be given when you complete various hour levels.

- Level 1 (20 Hours): Certificate & Saddle Time Window Cling
- Level 2 (50 Hours): Certificate & Saddle Time Travel Mug
- Level 3 (100 Hours): Certificate & Saddle Time Hat
- Level 4 (150 Hours): Certificate & Saddle Time T-Shirt
- Level 5 (200 Hours): Certificate & Saddle Time Tablet Bag
- Level 6 (250 Hours): Certificate, Award & Interview with Photo in ASHA Youth Newsletter, Junior Junction

### Saddle Time Rules

- Must be a current and active member of ASHA.
- Levels one through three do not have to be accumulated on American Saddlebreds.
- Levels four through six must be earned on registered American Saddlebreds. Time recorded begins upon ASHA's receipt of enrollment fee. There is no time limit as long as membership stays active.
- Hours are recorded on the official hours log report by the honor system. Hours required for each award are cumulative.
- Ownership of horse is not required.
- Hours will count in the following activities: trail riding, lessons, parades, drill teams and non-recognized events/shows.
- Hours will not count in the following activities: USEF recognized events/shows, competitive trail rides, endurance rides, driving, grooming and hot walking.
- 



### 2020 AWARD WINNERS

#### NEW ENROLL

- Erica Abend
- Maliyah Allen
- Julia Alster
- Alayna Applegate
- Liza Aronson
- Morgan Ballentine
- Kendall Barrett
- Caroline Battaile
- Anna Beasley
- Victoria Belpedio
- Sara Carrillo
- Kate Chambers
- Hannah Champion
- Isabella Charon
- Abby Connolly
- Emma Cook
- Finn Cooper
- Makenna Deaton
- Corley Jayden Dial
- Stella Dillard
- Samantha Dunn
- Amanda Elliott
- Sara Evans
- Anna Grace Everett
- Samuel Follmann-Eddy
- Kylee Gibby
- Erika Greeson
- Sarah Gross-Ford
- Eva Gruetzmacher
- Evelyn Hancock
- Amalia Hanley
- Emma Grace Hardin

- Laney Henley
- Brayden Hilborne
- Rachel Hilts
- Emma Holowiti
- Blair Huff
- Alexandra Hughes
- Eden Hughes
- Lilly Hutchins
- Emma Julian
- Ashley Juneac
- Hannah Karlick
- Ada Keilman
- Sydney Kerley
- Audrey Kim
- Tatum Luevano
- Demi Macadam
- Lauren Marx
- Grace McDonell
- Grace McFarland
- Lucy Mellema
- Shannah Moore
- Samantha Nelson
- Katelyn O'Laughlin
- Lauren Oswald
- Laurel Pack
- Ayva Palos
- Mia Provenzano
- Allison Ray
- Madison Reed
- Mackenzie Reynolds
- Lilly Raye Riggins
- Isabella Rodak
- Nicole Rodriguez



## 2020 AWARD WINNERS

### NEW ENROLL

Danielle Rogers  
Sausha Saunders  
Ellie Schmidt  
Jade Schweickert  
Julia Shanahan  
Kendall Smalley  
Allison Smith  
Brenna Smith  
Elena Smith  
Emma Soucy  
Christina Spiliotis  
Alexa Sullivan  
Nissa Sultan  
Emmaline Thompson  
Salay Tompkins  
Jessica Traft  
Mary Trexler  
Alexandra Varveris  
Ariana Varveris  
Angela Veshia  
Erica Vrabec  
Karaline Wagner  
Emma Wallace  
Tyler Wenzel  
Jordan White  
Piper Wilson  
Gena Wright  
Lydia Wurm  
Kimya Yaghoubinejad  
Sydney Young  
Taylor Young  
Connor Ziemann

### LEVEL ONE

Lauren Amos  
Carolyn Baker  
Elizabeth Banks  
Andi Bertschin  
Mary Evelyn Bolding  
Libby Bowen  
Amber Esch  
Sarah Esch  
Stella Frechette  
Kayla Gordon  
Paige Greeson  
Natalie Hancock  
Brayden Hilhouse  
Sara Honeycutt  
George Howard  
Brooklyn Kapella  
Donovan Kelledy  
Kali Lachner  
Allysen Liner  
Savannah Livingstone  
Jackie Mayor  
Maddie Mayor  
Sophie Mears  
Anna Merola  
Grace Mize  
Emily Moorefield  
Allie Poovey  
Isabel Richman  
Emma Robinson  
Morgan Robinson  
Emily Saczek  
Devin Sell

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)



## 2020 AWARD WINNERS

Deidre Shanahan  
Camryn Silverton  
Rebecca Simoneau  
Brayden Smith  
Hattie Steen  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Olivia Strange  
Faith Tittle  
Bella Vandergriff  
Isabelle Walters  
Emma Katherine Warren  
Anthony Wilkins  
Halle Workman

### LEVEL TWO

Madison Austin  
Sara Elizabeth Baker  
Bjorn Brinkley  
Camille Brinkley  
Scarlett Brinkley  
Stephanie Bush  
Ava Cassidy  
Lily Darsey  
Paige Greeson  
Carrie Hester  
Bella Hocker  
Kristina Leverett  
Asher Mabe  
Alexis Martini  
Kaeli McCarty  
Lizzy Miller  
Virginia Nutting  
Kennedy Pfafman  
Brooke Phelan

Liam Purtle  
Devin Sell  
Laney Shafer  
Lorelei Shafer  
Emma Soucy  
Hattie Steen  
Bella Tisci  
Ramsey Trask  
Jordyn White  
Laura Wood

### LEVEL THREE

Kylie Anderson  
Isabelle Andresen  
Chloe Ball  
Shelby Balmas  
Samantha Bannister  
Mercedes Bohigian  
Alexandra Dalzell  
McKinsey Denney  
Maria Gudger  
Jennifer Harris  
Kendall Kelledy  
Claire kyl  
Drew Mallery  
Ella Manssen  
Erin McNaughton  
Emma Phelan  
Emmi Randolph  
Samantha Rankin  
Anna Sanders  
Kamryn Smith  
Emily Vicari

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)



# Saddle Time- Level 6

Chloe Russell



## 2020 AWARD WINNERS

### LEVEL FOUR

Teagan Becker  
Hannah Broughton  
Madison Burriss  
Alexa Dahl  
Emilie Dorrestein  
Brooke Keadle  
Elizabeth Marshall  
Fallon Mieseler  
Mari Pawlowski  
Maya Spindler  
Bridget Underwood  
Michele Ziegler

### LEVEL FIVE

Nicole Bigelow  
Madison DoCabo  
Emily Egner  
Marissa Franklin  
Piper Hales  
Laura Plant

### LEVEL SIX

Chloe Russell  
Olivia Strange

1. What is your name, how old are you, and where do you live?

*My name is Chloe Russell, I am 11 years old and I live in Mt. Washington Kentucky.*

2. What are the names of your parents/guardians?

*Tara and Tony Beam.*

3. How long have you been riding?

*I have been riding American Saddlebreds for 2 years!*

4. Who is your instructor, and where is he/she located?

*My riding instructor is Sally McConnell at Rolling Hills Farm in Kentucky.*

5. How long did it take you to earn your hours?

*It took me about 1 year!*

6. What types of activities were completed in order to earn your hours?

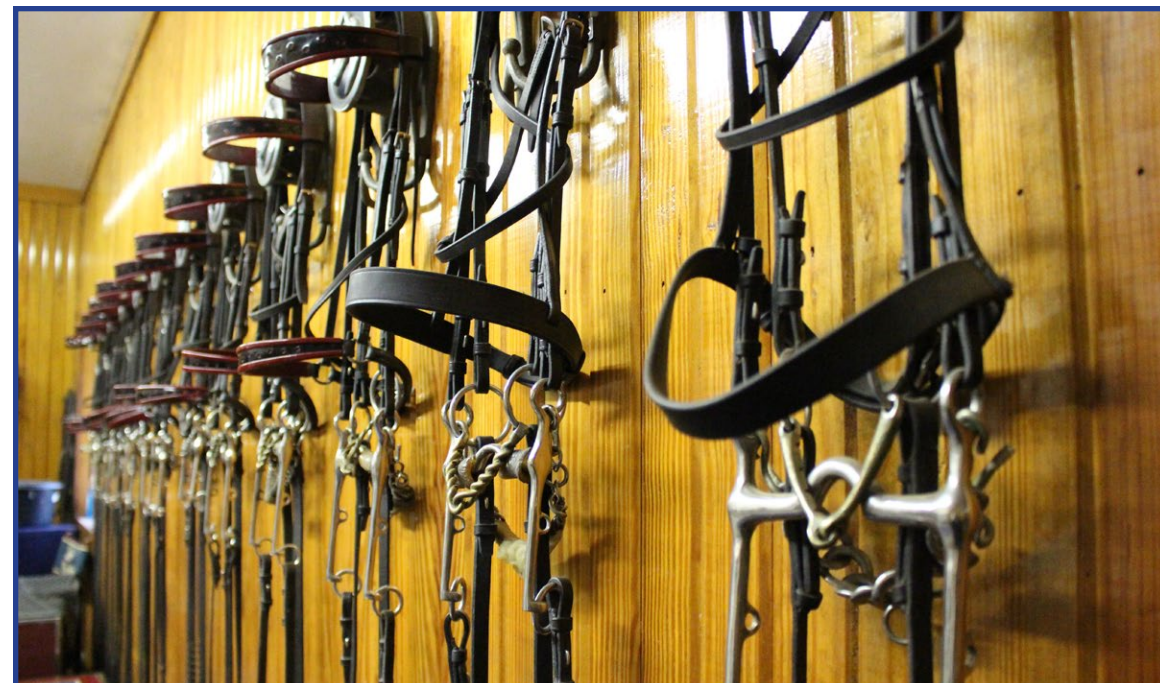
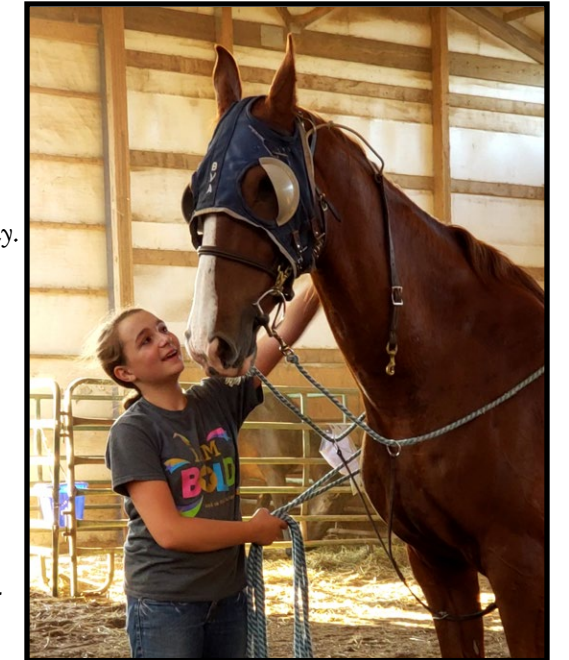
*Riding lessons, trail rides and just having fun pleasure riding!*

7. What did you like about participating in the Saddle Time program?

*I liked keeping track of which horses I rode and looking back at month and seeing the horse I rode the most.*

8. What do you like most about the American Saddlebred horse?

*I love the elegance and refined features of the American Saddlebred!*



9. Who is your favorite horse and why?

*My favorite horse has to be my horse, Bad Ash. He is my favorite because even with how much he frustrates me every time I ride him I learn something new, become a better rider and build a better bond with him. He has to learn to trust me because he lost one of his eyes to cancer and has a severe swayback we have to accommodate his back with half pads and a good saddle to fit him.*



PHOTO: HOWARD SCHATZBERG



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## Olivia Strange

### 1. What is your name, how old are you, and where do you live?

My name is Olivia Strange. I am 13.5 years old and I live in Mt. Washington, KY.

### 2. What are the names of your parents/guardians?

My parent's names are Brad and Sara Strange.

### 3. How long have you been riding?

I have been riding for almost 2 years!

### 4. Who is your instructor, and where is he/she located?

My instructor is Sally McConnell. She is the owner of Rolling Hills Farm in Mt. Washington, Kentucky.

### 5. How long did it take you to earn your hours?

It took me about 1 1/2 years to earn my Saddle Time hours.

### 6. What types of activities were completed in order to earn your hours?

I earned my saddle time by lessons, trail rides, and extra riding time for volunteering at the barn. I also earned a little time in the saddle for shows I participated in.



### 7. What did you like about participating in the Saddle Time program?

I liked participating in the Saddle Time program because I am learning time and receiving awards. I like seeing how much I have accomplished in a short period of time.

### 8. What do you like most about the American Saddle bred horse?

What I like most about the American Saddlebred horse is that they have so much energy. They are sometimes high-strung but they are also very sweet horses. They pick up things pretty fast and are just overall a good horse to have.

### 9. Who is your favorite horse and why?

Her name is Nanny or Callaway's No No Nanette. She is a 14 year old American Saddlebred and her birthday is March 22, 2006. She is my favorite horse because she is such a sweet mare. Most people have this stereotype that chestnut mares are the sassiest type of mare but in this case, it is definitely not true. She loves people and whenever little kids ride her, she takes care of them. She is definitely the barn babysitter.



## Become Part of the Bigger Picture by Supporting ASHA Youth Activities

The ASHA is launching our latest fundraiser and all that is missing is a picture of you and your horse! ASHA members are invited to donate and send in their favorite saddlebred scene to support ASHA youth activities. Your contribution will help the ASHA provide educational seminars, Junior Junction Youth Newsletter, youth scholarships, lesson program engagement activities, membership & achievement awards as well as many of our other youth programs.

The mosaic will feature 2018 Reserve World's Champion G.I. Joe photographed Sarah Bennett, an excellent visualization of "The Horse America Made" with a regal American Saddlebred stallion featured alongside the red, white, and blue. Sarah Bennett of Sarah Bennett Photography generously provided this photo to support this effort to raise funds and help assure there are #asbdreams for generations to come!

As members donate & send in their favorite saddlebred scenes, they will become a part of the picture! After we reach our goal, members will be able to view the mosaic online, search for other's photos, and share with family and friends!

How does it work? Well it's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Visit our Network for Good Donation Page (<https://saddlebred.networkforgood.com/projects/110047-asha-youth-activities-fundraiser>)
2. Choose how many tiles you would like to purchase & donate via online portal
3. Pick your favorite saddlebred scenes & email them to S.Geller@asha.net

Mosaic tiles will be available for purchase for \$40 apiece or buy 3 or more to make a bigger impact and receive special pricing. If a member donates 5 or more tiles, they will receive a complimentary poster print of the mosaic, mailed out in early 2021.





### US Equestrian “My First Horse” Feature on American Saddlebred Eventer

Check out the great “My First Horse” feature on American Saddlebred eventer Flynn Rider & his first time horse owner Kaya Macleod in the 2020 fall edition of US Equestrian Magazine.

“Kaya MacLeod lived a horse-lover’s dream when she received Flynn Rider, an American Saddlebred, last year as a Christmas present.”

US Equestrian Magazine is just one of the great benefits available to all USEF Members! This feature available to all today, full edition online for all US Equestrian members & printed edition will be arriving in 2020 USEF Competing Member mailboxes soon!

A special thank you to Kaya MacLeod, Kris Wallace, and the rest of the Columbia Equestrian Center family from Missouri that shared their Saddlebred Stories with us while they were in Lexington, Kentucky to compete in the 2020 Champagne Run Horse Trials. We are also grateful to the writing and publishing team at US Equestrian for helping us share this story with their 180,000+ members. It is inspiring to meet a group of dedicated sport horse enthusiasts who are being introduced to the American Saddlebred and falling in love!



### 2020 ASHA Youth Conference Has Record Breaking Success

In February the American Saddlebred Horse Association and Lexington, KY welcomed nearly 300 youth to the 2020 ASHA Youth Conference! “Saddlebreds in the Spotlight” was this year’s theme and it did not disappoint. From educational activities to experiences of a lifetime, the weekend was one everyone in attendance will cherish.

The weekend was filled with educational activities presented by Ellen Beard and Betty Kregor, Donuts with WGC CH The Daily Lottery and Kalarama Farm, spectacular horse presentations by Melissa Moore of Sunrise Stables and Dena Tanner Lopez of Double D Ranch, and an awards gala to top it all off! Parent education sessions were also offered thanks to Fran Crumpler and Renee Biggins, as well as an instructor education session presented by Betsy Webb.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make this weekend a success and make it our biggest conference to date!





### 2020 ASHA Youth Conference In Review



### 2020 ASHA Youth Conference In Review





# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Trinity Trotters

Trinity Trotters had new members and loads of fun learning to stay safe and still meet, learn and support our horses and riders. We had our first group of Academy Riders attend National Academy Championships this year and had a great show!



Other members helped our community by being the volunteer youth member and going on visits to local extended care facilities. I'm Big N Rich (Butch) and the Hidden Charm (Charm) were our ambassadors learning to spread some joy.



Youth Club members helped at the Central Indiana Invitational Fun show we hosted at Trinity Farm this June - taking on the challenge of keeping everyone safe and having a great time. Joining us were Select Show Horses; Four Willows Farm; Travis Creek Stables and the Red Barn Ranch.



Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)

# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Trinity Trotters

Even though the Trinity Trotters were not able to attend the World Championship Horse Show this year, they made lemonade out of lemons and hosted their own stakes night in the barn with the magical green shavings!



October the Youth of the Farm helped host the HalloWhinney Open House - doing a fund raising effort for our Academy Nationals Team and our Drill Team the Lucky Charms.



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# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## High Caliber Hot Shots

What a year it has been for the High Caliber Hot Shots! The State of NC was “shut down” because of COVID through some of March, April and the beginning of May. During this time, the Hot Shots hosted an “at home” Art contest. The Hot Shots sent out Saddlebred themed coloring sheets to local families to introduce both the barn and our wonderful horses.



Our lesson horses were very fortunate with #feedyourlessonhorsefriday - many generous donations came in from High Caliber families and fans around the country. Riding lessons started back up in mid-May, with different phases and safety protocols in place and we were very fortunate to have beautiful weather for most of the spring, summer and early fall to allow for lessons to be taught outside!

In the show ring, Claire Hagler began her Performance career with CH Meritage Signed Sealed & Delivered. Carrington Elliott closed out her final junior exhibitor year showing in the the five gaited division for the first time with the five gaited pleasure horse Nirvs of Steele and she was also able to show at the WCHS for the very first time with Blues Traveler in the Road Pony under saddle classes. There were also some new riders in Academy: Olivia Brooks, Amelia Malmfelt, Sarah Miller, Sarah Gray Douglass, and Athena Propfe. High Caliber took 23 riders to the National Academy Championship Horse Show in the beginning of November.



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## High Caliber Hot Shots

In 2020 we graduated a few key members and gained some new ones! We had a number of graduating Hot Shots that graduated High School in 2020: Grace Weisner, Olivia Horan, Ashley Creekmore, Carrington Elliott, Paige Greeson, Anna Sanders, Audrey Kim, and Jenna Dunford. We gained over 35 new members with the addition of Jeanine Lovell as an instructor in September.



Currently, the Hot Shots are hosting a canned food drive this month (December) to benefit Backpack Beginnings, a local non-profit that works to make sure every child in Guilford County is able to have their basic needs met.



The Hot Shots main events have all been postponed until it is safe to gather again: The Hot Shots Charity Horse Show, the Blues Gingerbread House Party for LLS, and many of our “normal” events will return in 2021, better than ever!



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Knollwood Knockouts

For the Knockouts, 2020 began in the usual way with our annual awards banquet. Members and their families gathered at the Legend at Bristlecone for a dinner, awards, addresses from club officers, and the annual 'State of the Farm' speech from our fearless leader, Scott. One of our favorite things about the banquet was the chance to get our barn friends together in one place to celebrate all things Knollwood. From our World Championship Horse Show riders to Academy Lead Line riders~ a good time was had by all!

Then the pandemic hit. Knollwood was closed from March 17 until June 1, and we were creative in keeping our riders involved in goings-on at the farm. We used weekly Facebook Live broadcasts to keep all our friends up to date and entertained. Our lesson horses became the stars of the shows for our Cocktail Hour Shows where we chatted about current events, and were entertained by our equine friends. We also hosted an 'Ask Scott Anything' show where viewers submitted their questions to our head trainer during the broadcast. Always quick on his feet, Scott entertained questions on a million topics from the underused adult equitation division to some of his favorite horses in his career to his opinion of ponies.



Starting in April, Knollwood Kids started visiting the city bridle path that runs past the school barn pasture, and the horses were delighted. Many of the Knockouts brought carrots and apples for their favorite horses, and the best lesson horses in the world figured that out. Quickly. We included some bridle path walkers in our 'Derby Day' broadcast. Host Shelby sported a Wisconsin cheesehead hat decorated for the day while she interviewed kids and horses. It was almost as entertaining as our 'School Horse Olympics' featuring lesson horses and Knollwood staff members. Knockout members organized a car parade past the barn while we were closed, and really brightened the day of farm staff. To top it off, many of our members donated funds to our feed store to help feed our unemployed lesson horses. The Knockout Club made a large donation to the cause as well.

Once we reopened on June 1, we immediately felt the rush to ride. We welcomed many, many new riders as our established riders picked up right where they left off.

Knockouts jumped in to act as 'super helpers' once we opened our doors again. Experienced riders quickly learned to be personal assistants to one instructor a day as they prepped horses and brought them to the arena for each lesson. They also learned the ins and outs of sanitizing reins and hard surfaces, all while wearing masks, of course.

# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Knollwood Knockouts

We had three new riders enter the show horse world to show in suits this year. Lily showed CH Fine by Me, Margit showed Rosewood's Homecoming Dance in show pleasure, and then her parents purchased the one and only CH Ken Follett for her to show in the 5 Gaited Show Pleasure Division, and Knockout president Erika made her debut on Impressive Asset.



Six academy shows survived the schedule, and we had a blast at all of them. We couldn't tell if the horses or riders were having more fun! At the state championships at the Wisconsin Futurity show in September, Knockouts finished champion and reserve in the 10 and under walk trot equitation final, and claimed the top 5 places in the 13 and under walk, trot, and canter championship.



As a club we hosted a car wash and concession stand event at a local food store, raising a lot of money for the club and having a blast getting wet on a warm summer day. We also served our community by participating in a food drive in which we donated over 650 pounds to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. The Knockouts also hosted family photos sessions on the farm!

We're looking forward to voting for 2021 club officers, and for the 2020 lesson horse of the year. While we won't be hosting an in-person banquet this year, we're planning a virtual event in February. The Knollwood Knockouts wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. We can't wait to see you at the in-gate in 2021!



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Brannon Barnsters

Although this year has been an interesting one, it has been a very memorable year for the Brannon Barnsters. At the beginning of the year, during the pre-COVID months, our younger academy riders were able to finish out an incredible winter tournament season with multiple riders winning high point awards.

We were also very lucky to be able to attend the 2020 ASHA Youth Conference with 20 attendees. Right when the winter tournament season came to a close and we returned from the conference, everything, including the barn, had to shut down. During the months of April and into early May, riders were unable to attend their weekly lessons but our riders didn't let that stop them. The Brannon Barnsters got together to raise money for our beloved lesson horses to help cover their expenses.



We also helped to put a dinner together for our amazing trainers and instructors, John McKowen and Nancy Brannon. When the barns were reopened our riders were ready to hit the show ring. We had multiple riders compete in the academy circuit for the first time this past season and they excelled in every way. We had three first time academy riders, Ella Cline, Ashley Kidd, and Lily Clouse, hit the ring at the Kentuckian Regional Academy Championship and each rider came out with a top ten medal in highly competitive and deep classes.



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Brannon Barnsters



We also had many exciting moments for our performance riders as well. For Hannah Broughton, it was her first full year in suit with her partner My Dear John where they rode to wins and reserves at multiple different shows.

As for Kayla Foster, it was her first year competing in the adult divisions where she showed in both country pleasure and show pleasure with RWC Steelin A Dream and Too Much To Touch. Devin Sell took on her final year as a junior exhibitor and did not disappoint. She also competed in her first season of equitation aboard Apparently On The Edge since her academy days where she captured multiple wins at shows including Alabama Charity Horse show, Lexington Junior League, and KASPHA State Championship. She also had a great season with her long time partner, He's A Gale Force, in the junior exhibitor 5 gaited pleasure division!

During this year we have also been very lucky to welcome 7 new rescue horses into our lesson program, two of which are American Saddlebreds! All of the new rescues have made wonderful new additions to our lesson program and are already favorites among many riders.



We have also had to make a few changes to how our youth club has been running due to the pandemic. To stay in touch we have been using Facebook, group texting between officers, as well as our new Instagram page. We have been hosting events that allow us to stay distanced including multiple food drives. During this holiday season we want to give back to our community through multiple different community services projects. In December we also are having some fun social distanced activities including a gingerbread barn making competition!

Although this year has been a very interesting one, the Brannon Barnsters are all very thankful to have been able to do all that we have! Each and every one of us are ready to work hard this off season in preparation for the coming show season and we cannot wait to see what 2021 brings!



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Wallen West Golden Spurs

2020 has definitely been a year of ups and downs. In January our barn mate, Anna Christy was diagnosed with malignant medulloblastoma, a rare and aggressive childhood brain cancer. Anna is a friend, a big sister, and a mentor at the barn always keeping things fun. Anna was beginning a new journey and we wanted her to know she was not alone. Then in March Covid struck in California, and we had a statewide quarantine. During this time Anna started her treatment and stayed in touch with facetime, calls and texts.



Wallen West Golden Spurs has a few new teams this year, and one of them is Anna's student, Eden. Edens' family had just purchased their own horse, ConSIDer Me Special. Sid and Eden work hard in preparation to hit the show ring. Anna keeps in touch with Eden following her progression. And now Avery, Eden's little sister is also riding Sid. Avery and Eden keep busy taking care of Sid from tacking him up to walking him back to his stall. Delphine is paired with ASB Creme Filling and are in training for the western division.



Delphine has her goals set high and wants to ride in the green shavings just like her Mom. Most of our shows on the west coast were cancelled due to Covid, and even the riders did not visit the barn. Everyone communicated with Robb and Betsy to get updates on their horses. Many of our riders watched Richfield Videos enjoying their quarantine series. Time passed and finally riders could return to the barn with strict Covid precautions.

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)

# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Wallen West Golden Spurs



Only one rider would have their lesson and be gone before the next rider would arrive for their lesson. Anna continued her treatment and our barn was her biggest cheer section. We continued to be together yet apart waiting for our next show which was Morgan Medallion in July. It is usually held in Las Vegas but a couple of weeks prior to the show, it was cancelled. Luckily the Morgan Medallion board did not give up and found a new outdoor venue at Del Mar Horsepark. Covid precautions were followed and we would facetime Anna to show her classes to help keep her connected.

The Golden Spurs attended a schooling show run by Ann Speck. This would be Avery and Sids debut in the ring on leadline, and they were a blue ribbon winner! The show was well attended and the academy classes were very competitive. It was also the first time for Allie showing and she rode Someone Pinch Me, and she was a fierce competitor. Austen and Donovan also did well in the ring, but our best memory is when Donovan won the pleasure class, Austen who was parked next to him, immediately gave him a high 5 on his win. After a quick lunch the fun classes started and the relay race was a definite favorite. Three kids riding bareback with the biggest smiles and competitiveness to go with it.



We managed to attend a few more shows trying to find our new normal. Anna continues her journey, and she is the most positive and determined person you will meet. She is back riding for short periods and we are all so happy to see her back in the saddle.

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Wingswept Walk Trots



We had three members that moved up from Academy. Stella Rintoul who showed Vampirina in the Junior Exhibitor Country Pleasure division. She swept the blues at Mid-America, Kentucky Fall Classic, Mercer County Fair, and Southern Saddlebred Spring Fling. Mateya Hartley showed My Domain in the Junior Exhibitor Three Gaited Pleasure division with top ribbons at Kentucky Spring Premier, Southern Saddlebred Spring Fling, and Shelbyville Summer Classic. Isabelle Lin had an outstanding first year performance season. Her and her Junior Exhibitor Park mount, Baxter Black, had wins at Mid-America Mane Event, All American Horse Classic, Shelby County Summer Classic, And Kentucky Spring Premier! We also had a first time Louisville Rider - Abbie Moulton showing Star Salesman. She began her performance career just last year in the walk trot division and jumped to Junior Exhibitor Five-gaited this year!

Our youth group was very fortunate to have been able to host a few in person meetings later in the year. However, the first few months of shut down we had to improvise. Amber Moon hosted several online meetings that included everything from a real time farm tour to say hi to all of our precious lesson horses (hosted by our assistance trainer Alyssa Schuester) to having fun virtual bingo sessions as well as trivia nights!



# ASHA Youth Club Happenings

## Wingswept Walk Trots

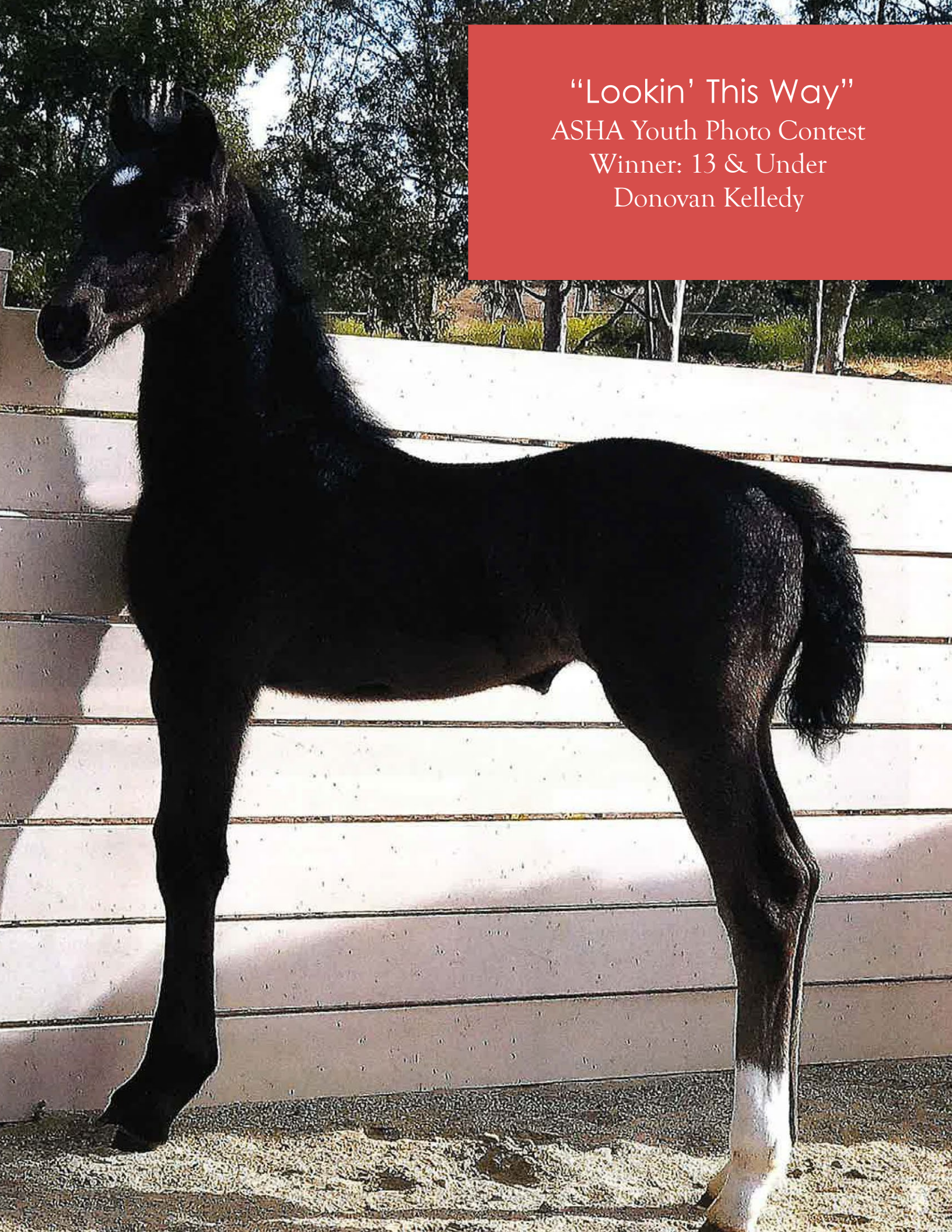
Since we were unable to go to shows as a group, and interact one on one as much as we usually do, we turned to fundraiser to raise money and awareness to amazing groups in our community. Our Wingswept Walk Trots raised money to donated roughly 25 birthday boxes to a local foster care center. We also hosted a rather popular "Parent-Ride Off" to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. We raised well over \$3,000!





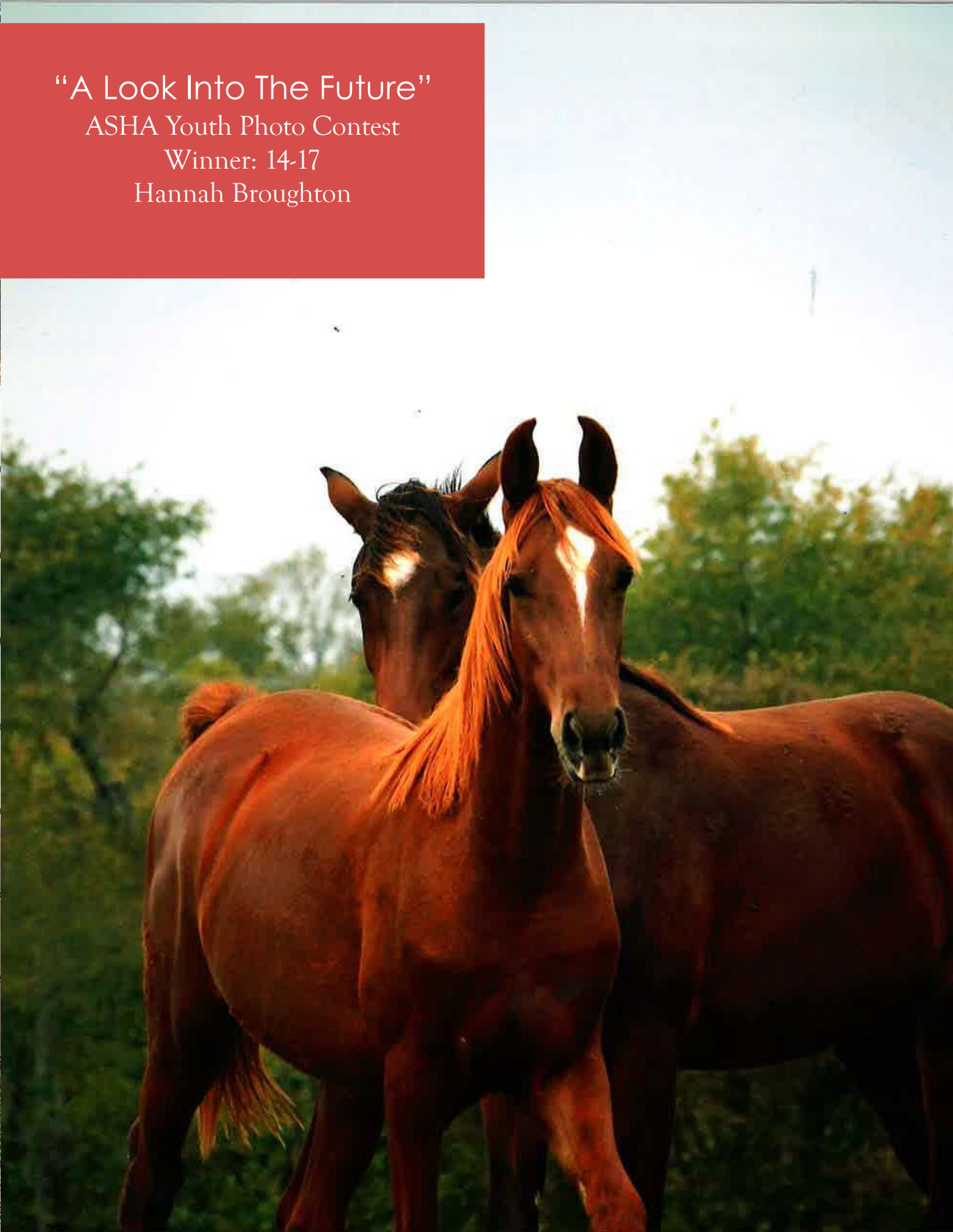
“Lookin’ This Way”

ASHA Youth Photo Contest  
Winner: 13 & Under  
Donovan Kelledy



“A Look Into The Future”

ASHA Youth Photo Contest  
Winner: 14-17  
Hannah Broughton





# World Championship Horse Show

## First Timer Features

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THIS YEAR WE BRING YOU OUR "FIRST TIMERS FEATURES" TO SHARE THE DIVERSE SADDLEBRED STORIES OF THESE MEMBERS ASB DREAMS JOURNEY. THE ASHA CELEBRATES THESE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED LOVERS DEDICATION AND PASSION FOR THE BREED AS THEY HAVE TRAVELED THE PATH TO THE BREED'S BIGGEST STAGE, THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW!

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH!](#)

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# ASHA 2020 WCHS First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

## Abbie Moulton

### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

Since I started show when I was 6, I couldn't wait to show my own horse on the green shavings. I finally got to this year. It was really exciting.

### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Working hard.

### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My mom signed me up for class for fun and I fell in love with riding. Now it is the only thing I want to do.

### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

He is super sweet and gaited.



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# ASHA 2020 WCHS First Timer Features

## Addyson Hamby

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### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I am most excited to trot down the ramp for my very first time! I have watched my cousin, Alayna Applegate, show at the WCHS since I could walk and I am honored to create new memories with her, my family, and Desmar Stables!

### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian is special to me because I learned to ride on my family's farm. I am excited to compete in this sport, meet new friends, and accomplish my goals.

### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

Saddlebreds go back many generations in my family. However, my involvement with Saddlebreds started in 2012 (I was 6 months old) My family bought my cousin her 1st saddlebred. I have watched her compete at the WCHS every year of my life. That makes this year, my first time competing so special.

### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

Diva is the sweetest horse I have ever been around. She lets my little sister and I give her big hugs & kisses! What I like best is I think she misses me when I'm not at Desmar. She is always SO happy to see me 😊 Of course, she expects extra peppermints when I'm there!



# ASHA 2020 WCHS First Timer Features

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## Abigail Van Kooten

### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I'm most excited about going down the chute into the arena and the overall thrill of showing at the World's Championships!

### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian means hard work, dedication, teamwork, and patience.

### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I received riding lessons from my aunt on my 8th birthday. I've been hooked ever since!

### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I love his intelligence and ambition.

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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

My very first lesson was right around the time of the WCHS, I remember hearing Brooke and Alayna talking about it. We watched Alayna win the roses that year and I thought at that time one day I would love to just be able to show on the green shavings. It is a dream that is finally coming true.

### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

I just generally love everything about being at the barn. I love all the horses and it always calms me to be around them.

### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I always wanted to take riding lessons and someone recommended Brooke to my parents and her barn was close. I went for my first lesson and immediately fell in love with the American Saddlebred.

### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I love Biggins little quirky habits like dipping his hay in his water bucket, the way he likes to be scratched on his neck after a ride, and the way it seems that we connect and understand each other.



## Brie Keeton



# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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## Alexis Hackney

### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I am excited about being in the large arena and showing my horse Divine Investment at the World Championship.

### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian means to work hard, take care of the horses and being part of something I absolutely love.

### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I fell in love with horses when I was three years old. When I was four years old I started lessons at Meadow Dream Farms and have loved it ever since.

### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

A LOT! She is so kind and is like one of my best friends. She is beautiful and loves to win as much as I do.

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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

### Fallon Mieseler

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#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

What I'm most excited about showing on the green shavings for the first time is the ability to experience and complete my biggest dream of showing at Freedom Hall, especially with a really special once in a lifetime horse.

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian means to me having a pure love of the animal first and the sport second. Having a bond with a horse has been the most amazing and fulfilling part of being a horse rider to me than anything else I've experienced in my life.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I started riding Saddlebreds at a summer camp when I was in elementary school and fell completely in love with the American Saddlebred. I have been an avid ASB enthusiast ever since.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

With all the examples I could give of just what an honor and absolute delight Caramac News (Chief) is to own and show, I have to say the main trait that stuck out to me when I first met him was his complete and total determination to be the best he can be for himself and everyone around him. Chief's spirit and heart of gold makes him a joy to be around and never fails to make me smile.



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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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### Ava Lambert

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I am most excited about going down the chute & feel the cool breeze coming from Freedom Hall!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian to me means being a part of a great group, where you get to meet lots of people and have fun.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My mom, owning the National Horseman, I got to go to my first horse show when I was two. I met a horse and fell in love and wanted to pet them and be with them.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I love her because she is so sweet, she loves to snuggle!



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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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### Emma Steward

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

The adrenaline rush and the environment. Showing at Louisville has been a dream of mine since I started riding and finally getting the chance to show is a dream come true!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian has taught me so many useful life lessons and given me a ton of opportunities. Being part of such a big community has brought me a lot of my friends and people I consider family. All around being an equestrian has definitely played a role in who I am.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My very first instructor, Michelle Spiegel played a huge role in me being the rider I am. She taught me all the basics and more. She really taught me how to just love horses and love the sport for what it is.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

What I love most about my American Saddlebred, Rupp, is his personality. He is so goofy and tries his best every day. He brings me so many laughs and smiles!

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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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### Alivia Garwood

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

Having the opportunity to show in Freedom Hall on green has been my dream. I'm so thankful to my parents for making sacrifices so I can live my dream.

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian means being dedicated, determined and willing to put in the hard work. Having the honor to love such a beautiful animal. Having true friendships with other equestrians that will last a lifetime.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I have been a dancer since I was two years old but always loved horses. We were driving by a barn that had a sign that said Horse Riding Lessons, I asked my mom to reach out, I took one lesson and was hooked I knew I belong in a saddle.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

They are stunning with power and such personalities. Golightly Lite O Morn is dedicated and loves me as much as I love him. He has taught me so much in the last year and he has made me a stronger more confident person/rider.

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# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

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### Ellie Lang

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I've watched this show for years and I'm super excited to finally be a part of it myself, can't wait to see some new competition too!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

An equestrian is to me, is a competitor who above all else exists for the love of horses.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I am the daughter of trainer Pam Roush so I have been at the barn daily since I can remember. All our lesson horses really taught me how to ride and drive. I finally have my very first horse in my name and I get to show him this year at Louisville. It's going to be pretty awesome to go down that ramp into the ring!

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

Roy is a goofball and loves to give kisses in return for face rubs, although sometimes he does think I look like a carrot. He flaps his lips in the line up too- hopefully not as the judge walks by!

#ASBDREAMS



# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

### Gracie De Ronde

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I have trained for this moment for the past 5 years, and I'm excited to put all my hard work to the test.

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being an equestrian means hard work, commitment, patience, and confidence.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

I received riding lessons from my aunt on my 8th birthday. I've been hooked ever since!

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

What I love most about my American Saddlebred is her strive to work hard every single time I ride her.

#ASBDREAMS







# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

### Julia Louw

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

Because its always been my dream to ride in those green shavings!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

It means a lot of hard work and dedication, to getting up at 7 in the morning to get ready to show, or to watch my friends show and to cheer them on.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My mom and dad train them. I grew up in the barn and fell in love with the breed.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

Because they all have a ton of personality and are all goofy and weird in their own way. I've ridden other breeds and nothing is as fun as the American Saddlebred!

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AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION



# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

### Kennedy Behringer

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

"I am excited to try it out and to show the judges that I am not a small little girl. I want to show them I am a champion rider"

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

"Being an equestrian is what my spirit is into, it keeps me going. I like it"

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

"My mommy got me started, because she is a horse trainer. Mommy and Daddy bought the barn when I was a tiny baby so that's how I got to ride horses"

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

"I love that my horse is sweet and nice. She is special and we belong together"

#ASBDREAMS



Gall 2020

AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION



# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

### Finley Wood

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I can't wait to have the experience of riding in Freedom Hall on the green shavings. The atmosphere is amazing and having the opportunity to show my horse there is an honor.

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

To me, being an equestrian means having a love for horses. It means hard work and dedication. It is the opportunity to have a special bond with an animal.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

A couple of years ago, a family friend suggested I try lessons at a Saddlebred barn. I instantly fell in love with the breed and began showing them later that year. I love their kindness and energy.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

Annie is amazing. She is very sweet and so fun to ride. She's always ready to go on show days and loves to go fast.

#ASBDREAMS



# ASHA 2020 WCHS

## First Timer Features

SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

### Mackenzie Burger

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

To be able to compete against great horses and incredible equestrians and see where you measure up. I am most excited about the initial trot down the chute into Freedom Hall!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

It means always having a barn family that supports me, it means hard work with great rewards, but most of all it means being a partner with one of God's greatest creatures.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My Mom has been a rider since she was practically born because her Dad was Texas Hall of Fame Trainer Charlie Isom. My Mom wanted to share the same joy and work ethic she had growing up so I started when I was 4.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My American Saddlebred, Madeira's Blue Norther, Cowboy at the barn, understands that this is my first year on a show horse after 8 years in Academy. He always takes care of me. He knows exactly what to do, and he is full of personality!

#ASBDREAMS





### SPONSORED BY INDEPENDENT EQUINE AGENTS

#### WHY ARE YOU EXCITED TO SHOW AT WCHS?

I'm most excited to feel the legendary blast of cold air riding into Freedom Hall! Ever since I watched as a spectator for the first time, it has been a goal and dream of mine. Sharing this experience with my family, trainers, and amazing horse is something that I will cherish forever!

#### WHAT DOES BEING AN EQUESTRIAN MEAN TO YOU?

To me, being an equestrian is not only about creating amazing memories, but also an unbreakable bond with a horse. An equestrian can not only embrace success but also bounce back from hardships because of their love for the sport and horses.

#### HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

When I was nine, I started taking Saddle Seat riding lessons with Ray and Barbara Blanton at Windgate Farms in Delaware, Ohio. I instantly fell in love with the breed and continued riding with Will and Brittany Harris at Harris Riding Academy in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. I'm also incredibly blessed to own two amazing Saddlebreds, Lola who I showed in Academy and Yankee who I show in Performance today.

#### WHY DO YOU LOVE THE AMERICAN SADDLEBRED?

My Saddlebred, Manhattan's Troy (Yankee), has so many loveable traits and quirks. I love his willingness to work and learn, as stubborn as he may be sometimes! He loves his job and definitely is a people-pleaser. Yankee also recognizes his own nickname when I say it and loves having his withers scratched after horse shows.



## Saddlebred Sport Horse 101

Written for the ASHA by Janet Thompson

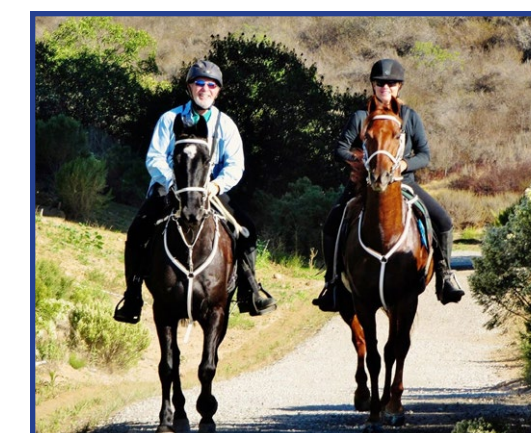
Just as everyone who owns or rides a Saddlebred doesn't have the same kind of job or enjoy the same skill set, so, too, every Saddlebred doesn't have the same kind of job. While the Saddlebred world has traditionally been mostly saddle seat oriented, (and in fact, its conformation led to the creation of the saddle seat discipline), Saddlebreds increasingly have been recognized for their ability in the so-called "sport horse" disciplines.

This article is intended to introduce you to those disciplines, and to start conversations about which horses might be best suited to careers in one of those disciplines. Subsequent articles will feature particular disciplines, with interviews of some of the riders and drivers who are enjoying their Saddlebreds in the sport horse world.

First, however, let's agree on definitions—what is and what is not a sport horse discipline for our purposes. Historically, the sport horse disciplines included those disciplines that are part of the Olympic tradition—Jumpers, Three-Day Eventing (also known as Combined Training), Dressage. Over the years, distance riding, Combined Driving, Carriage Driving, Western Dressage and Reining have been added to the list. While the Hunter division is not a recognized Olympic discipline, the Hunter horse that competes in a division with both flat and over fences classes is also considered part of the Sport Horse world. Finally, because of the connection to work done outside of the arena setting, both Trail (obstacles) and Ranch Riding may be viewed as Sport Horse disciplines, since the obstacles and patterns they include attempt to replicate real-life conditions outside the arena.



An American Saddlebred participating in Show Jumping



American Saddlebreds participating in Endurance



An American Saddlebred working cattle



Although clearly not saddle seat, our Saddlebred Western Country Pleasure and Saddlebred Hunter Country Pleasure divisions are not and should not be considered part of the sport horse disciplines. Why not? In large part, it has to do with form and function. These horses, while worked using non-saddle seat equipment, perform in much the same way as their saddle seat counterparts—they perform distinct gaits on the rail and have no additional tasks—ones that might replicate riding experiences outside an arena.

These Hunter Country and Western Country Pleasure horses form an enormously important component of our presence—both in competitions and in attracting riders and buyers to the Saddlebred. These individuals are often chosen for these disciplines because they may be less highly-keyed, have less or a different style of motion, a neck that either isn't as long or put on as high, and, related to those attributes, may cost less money. Since they compete in the Country Pleasure division, their shoeing requirements are different—no pads—and they may not wear tail-sets, and thus they are also easier for the amateur/owner/trainer to maintain. But, they are not part of the sport horse tradition. The sport horse disciplines are, however, increasingly important marketing opportunities for our breed.



An American Saddlebred participating in Dressage



An American Saddlebred participating in Combined Driving

Some of us, who are “of an age,” remember a time when the greatest open jumpers in this country were Saddlebreds. During the 1950's and 1960's, for example, those competing and winning in the Puissance classes, often with a vertical fence six feet tall or higher, were Saddlebreds. Later, in the 1970's and 1980's, fewer Saddlebreds were seen in the sport horse disciplines in the United States, despite that our horses had an abundance of the very qualities prized by sport horse exhibitors—shoulder motion, hocks, attitude—good thinkers and game~, and the ability to wear himself—to see a fence, to raise up and perform collected work. At the same time, the heavier-boned European Warmblood was making an appearance in this country and was making a run at the top spots in the sport horse disciplines. Over time, these larger horses were replaced by a “lite” version, one with more Thoroughbred blood, one that was more suited to lady and amateur riders. And, this “Warmblood Lite” was remarkably similar to many of our Saddlebreds, which also trace back to the lighter-boned Thoroughbred.



From the Country Pleasure division to Eventing CH Juicy Fruit can do it all!

## 10 Saddlebreds Shine in Eventing at 2020 Champagne Run Horse Trials

At least 10 Saddlebred eventers were competing at the Champagne Run Horse Trials in July. ASHA was proud to be on-site to see these fantastic representatives of the versatile American Saddlebred and help share their Saddlebred Story. We had Saddlebreds competing from Training Level to Starter and many placing at the top of their divisions! Check out the highlight of our Instagram Takeover here now!

ASR Diplomat of the Breed Royal Crest's Granite Permission and Lily Callahan had a great win at Training Level. They bested 20 other competitors and were the only combination to jump a double clear in the stadium phase. Lily & “Moose” qualified to compete at Training Level at the USEA American Eventing Championships presented by Nutrena for next year! This team will also be making the Bluegrass home even sooner as Callahan is on a scholarship to compete for the Transylvania University Collegiate Eventing Team. She will bring both her trusted partner Moose and her up and coming American Saddlebred eventer, The Phantom Pistol, who also won his Starter Level division this weekend.

It was also great to see several horses who had excelled in the show ring finding great success in their second and sometimes third careers. CH Good Deal, CH Juicy Fruit, Golightly Independence, and Sultan's Salutation are American Saddlebreds who spent years in the show ring that were there competing this weekend.

CH Good Deal is a horse who likes to make history. The first American Saddlebred to ever earn his champion designation with solely points earned in the hunter country pleasure division also went on to become an FEI Combined Driving horse before taking on the Eventing world with his devoted partner Kim Moore. This combination is already qualified to compete at the 2020 American Eventing Championship at Beginner Novice and had a great weekend putting some new techniques to use as they prepare for that championship.

CH Juicy Fruit, 2017 Adult Country Pleasure World's Champion, had a big weekend taking on the Beginner Novice level with trainer Elizabeth McGinley for longtime owner Karen Thompson.

Thompson is thrilled that her mare, which she enjoyed so much success in the show ring, shows a love for her second career. Juicy took home a third-place finish in a group of 17 challengers. Thompson is thrilled to be able to have another beloved American Saddlebred to enjoy eventing with.

Golightly Independence is an American Saddlebred that has been with his kid since walk and trot. Vivian Sandifer started showing “Indy” in 2012 in the 10 & Under Saddle Seat Equitation Walk and Trot at Burlington Spring Horse Show. These two continued the saddle seat division until 2015 when Sandifer felt ready to try something new.





While she wanted to try a new discipline, she had no interest in finding a new breed or even a different horse. So, Indy went from a saddle seat training barn to see if he could join his kid in a jumping career. Sandifer said it took a while, and at first, when he saw a dressage ring, he thought it was “showtime”, but he has come to love his new career and enjoys jumping! It was fitting that one of the last big breed shows they attended was Lexington Junior League that they returned to Kentucky to compete in the Starter division this weekend.

Sultan’s Salutation and longtime owner Beth Cahill who spent years competing in the Hunter Country Pleasure division across the country at breed shows, are making their way into the Eventing world. They competed at Starter and took home a tremendous fifth-place finish this weekend.

In addition to these competitors was the group from Kris Wallace’s Columbia Equestrian Center in Missouri. This weekend they came as a group of four Eventing enthusiasts that have fallen in love with the American Saddlebred breed.

Wallace discovered the American Saddlebred while attending William Woods University. She is a professional that loves the Sport Horse disciplines, but found a passion for eventing when she acquired her American Saddlebred gelding Absolute Lionheart, “Dan.” Dan not only endeared Wallace to the breed but also has influenced her to make her business centered on training saddle type sport horses.

At Champagne Run, she brought four American Saddlebreds to compete from Novice to Starter Level. Wallace and Absolute Lionheart, along with Emily Bruhn and Cat On A Mission, were strong representatives for the breed at Novice Level. Kaya MacLeod, a first-time horse owner, made her Horse Trial debut with her beloved Flynn Rider at Junior Beginner Novice Rider. Lady Sassafra and Josie Patton took on the competition at Starter Level.

ASHA is proud to see such a wide array of American Saddlebreds finding second careers, their niche, and a new audience to fall in love with the breed. The 2020 Champagne Run Horse Trials was just one example of a great-expanded appreciation for the American Saddlebred and Half Saddlebred that is happening across the country in the Eventing community. We look forward to continuing to be involved in supporting and reaching more enthusiasts of the breed we all love the American Saddlebred.

Learn more about ASHA Youth Programs at [Saddlebred.com](https://www.saddlebred.com)

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