



AHYA Youth of the Year

2022, Grace Smith, Region 5

Arabian Horse Association (AHA) youth members are exceptional! The Youth of the Year Award honors one outstanding youth member who exemplifies character and dedication to excellence in this or her academic and community achievements, as well as contributions to the Arabian horse industry and AHA.



In 2022, one candidate distinguished herself with a passion for the Arabian horse breed in bringing industry individuals together to help others. AHA is proud to announce **Miss Grace Smith**, from Orting, Washington, as the honored winner of the 2022 Youth of the Year Award. Grace receives the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy as well as a \$5,000 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Foundation.

Compassion, humility, and motivation are the foundation of this young woman's approach to life. She has served as an officer on her High School Associated Student Body Executive Board, National Honors Society and Future Business Leaders of America Chapter. Beyond this she has done numerous community service projects.

Moreover, our Youth of the Year has and is an important part of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. She was our AHYA President and is serving her second term. During her term she has championed the Are U Okay program. This program is dedicated to making meaningful connections with others and starting the important conversations about mental health that are needed in our community. The AHYA Board has now adopted this and has been hosting wear yellow days at local, regional and national shows to show support for the program and for suicide awareness. She brought this idea to AYHA because it is important to me that we not only share the love of the Arabian horse through diverse competitions and shows, but also that we take care of each other when someone is struggling and it's needed the most!

Ms. Ally Hubbard from Region 7 is the first runner-up for Youth of the Year. She receives a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by The Arabian Horse Association. Ally has been a big part of AHYA in and out of the show ring. She has been involved from the local level all the way up to the national level, learning how to braid, groom and prep a horse for the show ring, sometimes attending shows on her own with her mom. Beyond this Ally is very active in her 4-H club, ballet, and Girls Scouts always partaking in many community service projects. Along with all of Ally's service activities and horse activities Ally also has taken multiple AP classes and is a member of the National Honors Society.





Finally we would like to congratulate Ms. Marin McKee from Region 5 as our Second Runner-Up Marin is extremely involved in AHYA, serving as the AHYA Vice President. She has spearheaded many fundraisers and continues to support the Are U Okay program through implementing kindness boards at all of her local shows. She is a hard worker, passionate and determined in all that she does.