

ATTENTION COACHES, PARENTS AND VAULTERS: Call for 2010 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Nominees

Since the inception of this program in 2006, the USEF continues to invite each of its affiliates to submit one nominee to be reviewed for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. There are approximately 20 affiliates who may each submit one nominee to contend for this award. The winner receives a life time membership from the USEF, and if the nominee from the AVA, a lifetime membership to the AVA. New for 2010 the AVA will be awarding a free registration to the 2011 AVA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

It is up to the coaches to put forth one nomination to the AVA Youth Recognition Committee for review. However, it is up to you parents and vaulters to discuss this wonderful opportunity with your coaches and help them to gather the necessary paperwork on your behalf. The AVA committee will first slim down the list of applicants to one per region, and then choose one vaulter to be put in the USEF nominee pool from which the USEF will then chose the award winner. An alternate shall also be chosen should the AVA nominee win this award and not be able to accept it. Each applicant chosen to represent their respective region will be recognized at the AVA Annual Convention Banquet in March of 2011, in Las Vegas, NV. The presentation of USEF Youth Sportsman's Award will take place at the 2011 USEF Annual Conference. USEF youth members are encouraged to attend this great event, whether up for the sportsman's award or not.

Whether or not the AVA nominee wins this award, they will be invited to an all expense paid trip (minus airfare) to a USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Workshop in June 2011 in the Lexington area. This is an amazing opportunity for any youth who would like to pursue a career in the equine industry. The past workshops have included tours at Keeneland Race Track, Gluck Equine Research Center, The Rolex Course at the Kentucky Horse Park, Rood & Riddle, Sunrise Stables, Hallway Feeds, The WEG 2010 Office and much more. Annalise VanVranken (FACE and former FAME team member) was the AVA nominee for 2006 and took part in the June Workshop in 2007. "The biggest part of the USEF Youth Sportsman's Charter Award was a week long Equestrian Career Workshop in Lexington, KY. It was absolutely amazing, an awesome, efficiently organized, jam-packed week of tours, workshops and activities. We had breakfast one morning while watching the workouts at Keeneland Racetrack, lunch with the USEF Board of Directors another day, and USEF President David O'Connor gave a talk and joined us for dinner one night. This was absolutely the best workshop I've ever attended. It was great to meet the youth representatives of all the other disciplines. We had lots of fun and made lasting friendships. Actually, if I have a chance, I'd go again in a heartbeat!"

Eligible recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. Active junior membership in good standing with the USEF and the AVA.
2. Age of eligibility (17 and under as of December 1, 2010).
3. Demonstrate an ongoing commitment and dedication to the USEF and the recognized association through the promotion of the horse.
4. Serve as a positive role model for peers.
5. Earn ribbon awards for accomplishments in horsemanship and junior exhibitor classes at the local, state or national levels of competition.
6. Exhibit characteristics that exemplify positive sportsmanship principles.

For the application form, please visit
http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/Youth/sportsmansAward.aspx.

Completed applications AND additional documents must be submitted to Rosie Brown BEFORE midnight September 30, 2010, Central Standard Time. If you have questions or to have forms sent to you email Rosie Brown at lonestarovaulters@gmail.com or call 512-968-1561. Forms may be scanned and emailed. Or please call for mailing address or fax number.