



Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup Recap

In just four years, the Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup has awarded over \$12,000 in scholarships to 8 talented youth. It was created to provide local equestrian youth an opportunity to learn and compete during the National Western Stock Show through relevant hands-on educational activities with their equine partner and top equine professionals. The Mentor Matchup program provides the participants with professional networking, experience working toward a specific goal, and the opportunity to win a scholarship on opening weekend. Ten skilled Colorado & Wyoming residents between 14 - 21 years old are selected each year to participate in the Mentor Matchup program.

Collin Ochsner from Kersey, Colorado has a background of showing in AQHA Versatility, SHOT, RHAA, and NRCHA shows in the region. He won the AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse High-Point in the youth fencing last year. Collin has participated all four years and brought a new horse to compete this year. He was coached by respected cow horse trainer John Snyder. After trying for a scholarship for three years, a horse change and another great mentor was just the ticket he needed to come out on top! He and his horse SJR Diamond Icon, "Icon" placed fourth in Ranch Trail, tied for sixth in Ranch Riding, and were first in the Reining and Cow Work. He received a \$2,000 scholarship to support his college tuition at Texas Tech University.



Madison Moore from Wellington, Colorado, has been riding since she was eight years old and acquired her cowhorse Red Feather Merada, aka "Mo" three years ago. Madison has shown in the AQHA, AQHA Ranch Versatility and Stock Horse shows. She has competed in the AQHA Versatility World show twice and the AQHYA World Show. Madison's coach was renowned reining trainer Shane Brown. Shane has coached Mentor Matchup kids to win scholarship money almost every year and Madison was just the youth to add to this streak. She received a \$1,000 scholarship winning the Reserve Championship in the 2023



Mentor Matchup event. She anticipates attending college at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and plans to take Mo to with her to try out for their ranch horse team.

Both the competitors and coaches really enjoyed the event, making life-long connections that continuously influence them. This is the most popular youth horse show event at the National Western Stock Show with interest from both kids and coaches.

Congrats to all of our youth participants this year and thank you to our phenomenal coaches!

More about the Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup program, please visit <https://nationalwestern.com/horse-shows/horse-exhibitors/horse-youth-programs/#>

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Photos by Performance Horse Photography