

Y.E.S. - Youth Equestrian Showcase **Scholarship Program Specifications**

The National Western Stock Show Youth Equestrian Showcase has been created to recognize and support our local equestrian youth and involve them in the educational opportunities of the NWSS. Applications will be accepted through the website until September 30, 2026. **Read the specifications below carefully BEFORE submitting an application. By signing and submitting an application, you agree to all the specifications.**

Champion Award: \$2,000 scholarship

Reserve Champion Award: \$1,000 scholarship

1. To be eligible, you must:
 - a. Be between the ages of 14-21 as of September 30, 2026, inclusive
 - b. Be involved in the equine industry
2. Completed applications will be accepted until September 30, 2026 11:59 p.m. MST through our website: <https://nationalwestern.com/horse-shows/horse-exhibitors/horse-youth-programs/>
3. Applications will be reviewed and up to six (6) outstanding individuals will be selected as finalists and notified no later than November 1, 2026.
 - a. Selected youth will be required to attend a logistics meeting prior to show, via conference call or Zoom.
4. Finalists will create a video showing their skills and detailing the progress of their SMART goal, interview with the selection committee during NWSS, execute their plan for an educational visual display during NWSS and interact with the public in an educational setting during NWSS. The *Y.E.S.* finalists will be recognized during the NWSS Horse Show.
5. Program Elements
 - a. Live Interview
 - i. Will be scheduled during the NWSS
 - ii. Will begin with an introduction (name, hometown)

- iii. Will provide time for committee questions on your application, video or involvement in the equine industry.

b. Video

- i. Will be due via email by December 31, 2026
- ii. Be 2-3 minutes in length
- iii. Should include name, hometown, horse's/mule's/pony's name, age and breed
- iv. Should describe the original SMART goal (from your application) and why it was chosen
- v. Should outline the steps taken to achieve the SMART goal
- vi. Should show skills and detail the progress with their horse/mule/pony
- vii. Should mention any challenges or successes encountered
- viii. Should demonstrate the final result/achievement

c. Educational Visual Displays

- i. Will be created by the finalists and delivered to the NWSS in early January to be on display throughout the duration of NWSS (drop off time to be scheduled).
- ii. Finalists will be recorded doing a brief (2-4 minute) explanation of their display during their scheduled drop off time.
- iii. Should be no smaller than 24"x24" and no larger than 48"x48" in size.
- iv. Should be able to stand alone or easily affix to a bulletin board, wall or stall.

d. Volunteering

- i. Finalists will volunteer for a minimum of three hours during the 2027 NWSS (January 9-24) to interact with the public in an educational setting (as determined by the Horse Show Department).
- ii. Hours incurred may be counted toward public service (National Honor Society or other) requirements and may also qualify for additional NWSS scholarships.

e. Networking

- i. Finalists may have the opportunity to network with each other and the selection committee during the NWSS.

6. Recognition

- a. Finalists will be recognized and the Champion and Reserve Champion named during a performance at the National Western Stock Show.

7. This award will be judged on:

- a. Involvement in the equine industry
- b. Creative content/goal accomplishment in video
- c. Educational visual display plan and execution
- d. Live interview

8. Any contestant who has not yet won the Champion or Reserve Champion award is encouraged to apply in succeeding years.
9. In the case of a tie, the interview score will be the tiebreaker.
10. Scholarship money will be awarded to the school of choice or held in escrow until registered for admittance.
11. Call or email the NWSS Horse Show Department with questions: 303-299-5525 or horse@nationalwestern.com