



THE YOUNG RIDER PROGRAM

An Introduction

The Young Rider Program is offered through the United States Eventing Association (USEA) for riders 21 years of age or younger. The program accommodates riders of all levels. Our hope is to generate involvement in the sport of Eventing early on, helping all levels of riders realize their goals and achieve success through dedication, hard work and discipline.

This program is divided into ten Areas throughout the country, and each Area program is facilitated by a volunteer Young Rider Coordinator. Each coordinator oversees the program for his/her Area and sets up different educational and developmental activities their young riders to attend such as camps, clinics and seminars. Each Area Young Rider program is divided into two sub-programs or branches: [North American Junior & Young Rider Championship \(NAJYRC\)](#) and [The Young Rider Advancement Program \(YRAP\)](#). The NAJYRC branch focuses on developing and fronting riders and horses for the Championships each summer. YRAP focuses on providing lower level young riders with the education and skills they need to progress through the levels and eventually into the ranks of the NAJYRC. The USEA also offers a [Young Rider Mentorship Program](#), which gives young riders the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals.

The sport of Eventing includes three major disciplines that a horse and rider must complete. They are dressage, cross-country and show jumping. Eventing is one of the three equestrian sports represented in the Olympics, and men and women compete equally against each other. The Young Riders of today make up the future of this wonderful sport.

What is the purpose of the Young Rider Program?

- To encourage and support the sport of eventing in competitors twenty-one years of age and younger.
- To make young riders aware of educational opportunities - coaching, course walks, clinics, camps, etc.
- To promote good sportsmanship and the facilitation of working as a team member.
- To develop respect for the horse, without whom none of this is possible.
- To develop camaraderie among young riders, thus, hopefully, developing lifelong friendships and a commitment to the sport, which will be carried on as members of the USEA, volunteers at local events, coaches, trainers, competitors, and consumers of equine products.
- To field a team of intermediate-level young riders to represent each area at the two-star level at the North American Junior & Young Rider Championships ("NAJYRC").

- To field a team of preliminary-level junior riders to represent each area at the one-star level at the North American Junior & Young Rider Championships (“NAJYRC”).

Annual Young Rider Activities:

Young Rider Camps – tentatively scheduled for Spring (March 10-11, 2018 at Twin Rivers Ranch, Paso Robles, CA) and Summer (June 21-24th, 2018 at Twin Rivers Ranch); camps run as a mix of small group lessons with top notch trainers (including 1 private dressage lesson, 2 small group jumping lessons, team building exercises) and meals are included for all campers. A great opportunity to get to know other young riders, to hone your riding skills, to learn more about the world of eventing, and to have TONS of fun! Discounts are offered to Young Riders that have provided (10) or more volunteer hours to the area.

Young Rider Clinics – clinics with our team coach, and other respected clinicians, are offered a few times each year. Young Riders receive significant discounts. Additionally, periodic clinics on horse care and show management are provided for no charge.

Young Rider Socials – just-for-fun socials that take place at scheduled Area VI horse trials and 3-day events throughout the year and allow our members to meet each other, meet our coaches, and ask questions. These socials are a GREAT time to learn more about the Area VI Young Rider program.

North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (“NAJYRC”) - The NAJYRC serves as the only annual FEI Championship hosted in the United States every year and has remained a staple on the equestrian calendar since its inception in 1974. The NAJYRC began in 1974 as an Eventing challenge between the United States and Canada. A Dressage championship was added in 1981, and Show Jumping was added in 1982. The first complete Young Riders championship was held in British Columbia, Canada in 1982. The NAJYRC were expanded to officially include a championship division for juniors in 2006. *

Area VI Young Riders have done very well in recent years! In 2017, one of our CH-YR** riders placed 4th in a very competitive field of eighteen starters and our CH-J* team brought home the **Team Gold Medal** while one team member earned an additional individual **Bronze Medal**. In 2013 and 2015 Area VI had riders finish in the top 10. In 2012, our CH-YR** team brought home **Team Gold**. In 2011, our CH-J* team brought home the **Team Silver Medal** – with two of our riders finishing in the Top 10. In 2010, our CH-J* team brought home the **Team Gold Medal**, while our CH-YR** team earned the **Team Silver Medal**. Also in 2010, Area VI won BOTH the CH-YR** and CH-J* **Individual Gold**. NAJYRC 2009 saw another CH-YR** **Individual Gold** for Area VI, a CH-YR** **Team Gold** and a CH-J* **Bronze**. NAJYRC 2008 saw Area VI achieve double **Gold** at the CH-YR** level.

In 2018, the NAJYRC will be held July 18-22, 2018 at The Event at Rebecca Farm in Kalispell, Montana. Area VI expects to send a full NAJC* team as well as a CICOY** team. Young Riders interested in representing Area VI should speak to one of the Young Rider Coordinators or the Young Rider Coach (contact information for these individuals can be found on the Area VI website... <http://areavi.org/programs/area-vi-young-riders/>) to get additional information on expected qualifications needed, area requirements, etc. An Intent to Qualify & Questionnaire from each interested Young Rider must be submitted to the Area VI Young Rider Coordinators beginning in January while the formal application to

the FEI is due later in the spring (TBD). Details will be posted to the Area VI website and sent out via email once the requirements are sent from USEF/USEA.

Current Area VI Young Riders who are interested in grooming at NAJYRC are also encouraged to let us know. The number of grooms that will attend NAJYRC depends on the number of riders going, and may change until the actual departure day. Age, experience, work ethic and sportsmanship are all criteria for being chosen to be a groom at NAJYRC. Groom Applications are also available in January.

Finally, Area VI has sent a Young Rider to participate in the United States Eventing Association's ("USEA") Mentorship program for the past 5 out of 7 years. This program provides the opportunity for selected Young Riders who may not be able to ride at NAJYRC to attend the event and learn what it takes to put this competition together – there are options to shadow the FEI Vet, the Course Designer, the Chief Steward, etc. More information can be found at the Area VI website (<http://areavi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/NAJYRC-MENTORSHIP-2017.pdf>).

AREA VI YOUNG RIDER MEMBERSHIP

New Membership Procedure

We would like to invite you to join the Area VI Young Rider Program. The Program is open to riders 21 years of age and under who live in Area VI (California & Hawaii) and are competing at (or will be competing at) the Beginner Novice level and above this next year.

All memberships must be generated and paid through the USEA. This can be done at the time of your annual USEA renewal or at any time following.

For USEA membership and information, visit (<http://useventing.com/membership>). Please contact Jennifer Hardwick at USEA (<http://useventing.com/resource/contact-usea>) should you have any problems with renewing online.

YOUNG RIDERS GIVE BACK:

Young Riders are encouraged to give back to our Eventing and Young Rider community. It is suggested that each Young Rider contribute a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time each year. These hours can come from any of the following:

- Jump Judging at Horse Trials or a 3 Day Event
- Dressage Scribing at Horse Trials or a 3 Day Event
- Score Running at Horse Trials or a 3 Day Event
- Staffing Young Rider Fundraisers or events (Ice Horse, Used Tack Sale, etc.)
- Work at One Day Shows & work to set up shows is also eligible.

Hours can be worked in any increment – 1 hour at a time up to all 10 hours at once. Young Riders with their 10 hours of volunteer work logged in the past year will receive a discount on camp fees.

NAJYRC Candidates and Grooms are **required** to give an additional 5 hours of volunteer time, preferably to fundraising, to offset the cost of NAJYRC.

Volunteer Hours Procedures

To receive credit for volunteer hours worked, you must fill in a “Volunteer Hours Form” and have it signed by an appropriate person (show secretary, volunteer coordinator etc.) The form must then be submitted to the YR Volunteer Coordinator(s). We ask that all forms be submitted within 2 weeks of when the service was performed.

Volunteer Hour Forms can be found here: <http://areavi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Volunteer-Form-2017.pdf> or may also be at the event. Information on how to submit is listed on the form. Hours are credited and accrue from July 1st through June 30th of the following year.

Volunteer Hours Policies

Hours can be worked by the Young Rider, a family member, or a trainer. While we PREFER that the Young Rider log the majority of the volunteer hours, we understand that show schedules do not always permit the rider to have additional time. If a mother, father, responsible sibling, or trainer would like to volunteer instead, their hours can be credited to the Young Rider account.

If you are using volunteer hours to earn Young Rider credit, ***you should not receive any other form of compensation.*** No schooling forms, no entry deductions ... this is your gift to the organizers who very generously support us throughout the year.

NO exceptions will be made to the camp discount or the NAJYRC candidate policy – not even 1 hour. Get your hours in!

Important Young Rider Contacts:

Young Rider Coordinators:

Kristin Hogan: khogan@sonic.net

Laura Poch: laurapoch@gmail.com

Team Coach:

Bec Braitling: bec@me.com

Chef d’Equipe:

Lauren Billys: laurenbillys@yahoo.com

YRAP Coordinator:

Christine McNabb: chrismcnabb2@yahoo.com

Young Rider Representative:

Sophie Tice: sotice2001@gmail.com

Young Rider Volunteer Coordinator:

Lisa Hendricks: ljhendricks56@gmail.com

