



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 early on, helping all levels of riders realize their goals and achieve success through dedication, hard work and discipline.

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 Young Riders Championship.
- To field a team of preliminary level young riders to represent each area at the one-star level at the North American Young Riders Championship.

The Area VI Young Rider program includes a yearly camp, periodic clinics, the Team Challenge, The Low Score Program, periodic socials, and our NAJYRC Team.

Young Rider Camp – tentatively scheduled for the June 29 – July 3, 2017 – at Twin Rivers Ranch- camp is a mix of small group lessons with top notch trainers – including 1 private dressage lesson, 2 small group jumping lessons, team building exercises and just plain fun. A great opportunity to get to know other young riders, to hone your riding skills and learn more about the world of eventing. Deep 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.

The Team Challenge – again this fall, we expect our Young Rider Team Challenge will be held. Teams of our Young Riders (from BN through Prelim) will compete for fantastic prizes. Past awards have included Devoucoux breast plates, Fleeceworks saddle pads, halters, and more!

Young Rider Socials – just for fun get-togethers, scheduled throughout the year allow our members to meet each other, meet our coaches, and ask questions. This is also a great time to find out about the program.

North American Junior and Young Rider Championships

In 2016, the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships will be held once again in July at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado. Area VI expects to send a full One Star and Two Star team. We also hope to send up to two additional individuals at each level.

Area VI Young Riders have done very well in recent years! In 2013 and 2015 we had riders finish in the top 10. In 2012, our Two Star team brought home Team Gold. In 2011, our One Star team brought home the Team Silver Medal – with two of our riders finishing in the Top 10. In 2010, our One Star Team brought home the Gold Medal, while our Two Star Team took Silver. Additionally, Area VI won BOTH the One Star and Two Star Individual Gold. 2009 saw another Two Star Individual Gold, a Two Star Team Gold and a One Star Bronze. 2008 again brought double Gold at the Two Star Level.

Young Riders interested in representing Area VI should seek out one of the YR leaders to get additional information on expected qualifications needed, area requirements, etc. A letter of intent will be required in the spring. Details will be posted to the Area VI website and sent out via email once the requirements are sent from USEF/USEA.

Current Young Rider members 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.

As any past rider or groom will testify, the days are long but the rewards are worth it.

Finally, Area VI has sent a YR to participate in the Mentorship program for the past 6 out of 7 years. This program is a chance for young riders who may not be able to ride at Championships to go 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, under the YR section.

AREA VI YOUNG RIDER MEMBERSHIP

New Membership Procedure

We would like to invite you to join the Area VI Young Rider Program. The Young Riders

Program is open to riders 21 years of age and under who live in Area VI (California) and 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.

The USEA's website is www.useventing.com. Please contact Jennifer Hardwick at 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 at a time up to all 10 at once. Young Riders with their 10 hours of volunteer work logged in the past year, will receive a SIGNIFICANT discount on camp fees – usually around \$200!

NAJYRC Candidates 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. We ask that all forms be submitted within 2 weeks of when the service was performed.

Volunteer Hour Forms can be found on the Area VI website, www.Areavi.org or may also be at the event. Information on how to submit each form is listed on the form.

Hours are credited from the end of camp to the beginning of camp the next year (roughly July 1 through June 30th.)

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

as a young rider back 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:

Program Coordinator: **Christine Traynham** email: christinetraynham@icloud.com

Team Coach: **Brian Sabo** email: brian@saboeventing.com

Chef d'Equipe: **Bec Braitling**: bec@me.com

Young Rider Representative: **Marta Tabatabai** email: Martatabatabai@yahoo.com

Volunteers: **Lisa Hendricks** email: ljhendricks56@gmail.com

Camp: **Meghan Dayka** email: mjdayka@hotmail.com

Social Media: Area6YoungRiders@gmail.com

YRAP DIRECTOR and AYR Representative: **Christine McNabb** email: chrismcnabb2@yahoo.com