

## MISSION

We are a **FREE** program offered to Washington State Horsemen members dedicated to the personal development of youth while providing a positive impact on volunteers and communities in Washington State.

## HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE ?

1. Join Washington State Horsemen.
2. Visit our website to download a registration form. Complete and return the form to the East or West Side Chair (depending upon your location) no later than March 15.
3. Visit the website to download a workbook. Workbook 1 works great for kids not quite ready to write. All others should begin in Workbook 2.
4. Begin completing the workbook ...learning and having fun!
5. Turn the original workbook into the East Side or West Side Chair (keeping a copy for your records) by August 1.
6. Collect your amazing prizes at the WSH Annual Convention in November.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Each year, the WSH Youth Merit Program awards five perpetual trophies based upon current year points earned. The awards include High Point 10 and Under, 11 to 13, and 14 to 17 years of age. Additionally, the youth with the most new points will receive the Del Haack Junior Achievement Award and the youth with the most community service points in Sections 14 and 15 will receive the Chet Kelley Memorial Award.

## Washington State Horsemen

[www.WashingtonStateHorsemen.org](http://www.WashingtonStateHorsemen.org)

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## Horsemen's

# Youth Merit Program



**FREE to WSH Members**  
**Open to Kids 17 and Under**  
**Earn While You Learn**  
**Make New Friends**  
**Even Participate Horseless!**

## About Us

Washington State Horsemen recognizes that our youth are the future of the organization. The Youth Merit program was created to insure that there was something for everyone. Youth ages 17 and under may find themselves involved in further studies of breeds, horse health, tack, and specific disciplines (both inside and outside of WSH). Often Zones will also conduct meetings and clinics for further hands-on experience. Through the program, Youth Merit members are given the chance to:

- Develop self-confidence and improve self-esteem
- Learn communication and public speaking skills
- Win tangible awards
- Set and achieve goals
- Develop the use of effective leadership skills
- Make a difference in their community
- Have fun!

### OUR PURPOSE

- Offer a program that will satisfy the needs of the current WSH Junior Members (17 and under) and attract new ones to WSH.
- Provide an opportunity for youth to advance and broaden their knowledge of horses.
- Encourage youth to expand their horizons and participate in new activities, both with and without horses.
- Stimulate youth not only to develop new skills, but also to increase their proficiency at those they already possess.
- Recognize activities of youth in their club, school, and community, as well as reward contributions that benefit such organizations.
- Reward, in a tangible fashion, those youth who attain their required level of accomplishment.

WSH youth are considered to be some of the best in the State. Many of you are completing tasks daily through school, community service, and riding that you could be earning credit for through the Youth Merit program. We encourage you to review the point system listed and begin your journey to earning these tangible awards.

## PRIZE LIST

<b>Participation</b> Plaque and Certificate	50 Points
<b>Certificate of Merit</b> Yellow Tag and Certificate	100 Points
<b>Certificate of Excellence</b> Red Tag and Certificate	200 Points
<b>Honor of Excellence</b> Blue Tag and Certificate	300 Points
<b>Bronze</b> Medallion and Certificate	500 Points
<b>Superior Award</b> Embroidered Jacket	650 Points
<b>Silver</b> Medallion and Certificate	800 Points
<b>Supreme Award</b> Belt Buckle and Certificate	1,000 Points
<b>Gold</b> Medallion and Certificate	1,200 Points
<b>Scholarship Level 1</b> \$50 Cash Award and Certificate	1,400 Points
<b>Scholarship Level 2</b> \$75 Cash Award and Certificate	1,600 Points
<b>Scholarship Level 3</b> \$100 Cash Award and Certificate	1,800 Points

## How Does It Work ?

Points count from the date of enrollment providing that you are a current WSH member. Credit is not given for tasks that are accomplished prior to enrolling. Points are carried forward into the next year without interruption. Tasks cannot be redone unless they are marked with an \* or they were not completed in a prior year. Additional points cannot be earned unless dues for the new year have been paid and the new WSH membership number is turned into the Youth Merit Advisor by MARCH 15TH.

Youth Merit members may earn up to one medallion level each year. For example, a youth earning 650 points their first year will receive the Participation Plaque, Certificate of Merit, Certificate of Excellence, Honor of Excellence, and Bronze Medallion. The following year, they will receive the Superior Jacket as long as the Youth Merit member earned at least 100 new points during the year and renewed their WSH membership.

In order to receive a Scholarship Award, Youth Merit members must earn the minimum points listed, write a 500+ word essay, and present the essay verbally at Convention. Only one Scholarship will be awarded per year to a Youth Merit member.

Verification of task performance is accomplished with the signature of an adult (preferably not a parent of the youth) who can verify, based on personal knowledge that the task was satisfactorily completed. The completion certification date must be provided. The adult should include his/her title (show official, club officer or relationship).

The deadline for submitting records for awards to be presented at the current year's WSH Convention is August 1.

All awards will be presented annually at the WSH Convention. Those unable to attend will receive their awards via their Zone Advisor and/or Zone Representative.