



YOUTH MERIT

Workbook

Designed Especially for Children 6 and Under

Welcome to the Washington State Youth Merit Program! We hope that you will have an enjoyable journey on your trail of learning, earning, and serving. Those enrolled in the program progress at their own pace. The program provides opportunities to develop leadership and public speaking skills as well as skills inside and outside of the equestrian arena. The purpose of the WSH Youth Merit Program is to:

- Offer a program that will satisfy the needs of the current WSH Junior Members and attract new ones to WSH. Our youth are the future of our organization!
- Provide an opportunity for Junior WSH Members 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 which benefit such organizations.
- Reward, in a tangible fashion, those youth who attain their required level of accomplishment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How old must one be to participate? To enroll in the program, youth must be 17 years of age or under as of August 1. There is no minimum age requirement at this time.

How do I register? An application form is included in the workbook. Complete the form and return it to either the East Side or West Side Youth Merit Chair (depending upon which side of the mountains you live on). Your registration form must be mailed prior to beginning the program and credit will not be given for tasks accomplished prior to enrolling. Youth must enroll / re-register each year to continue in the program and have their WSH membership paid prior to March 15 to continue earning points.

Is there a cost to register? The program is free to all current Washington State Horsemen youth members.

When can I register? Although the "season" begins August 1, youth may register any time during the year after paying their Washington State Horsemen membership dues.

Who can sign my workbook for the tasks I complete? Adults (preferably not a parent of the youth) are to sign the workbooks verifying that the tasks have been performed satisfactorily. Along with the signature, a date of completion should be included. The adult should include his/her title (show official, club officer, or relationship).

When is my workbook due? Workbooks are due to Zone Youth Merit Advisors (if one has been appointed for your Zone) on or before August 1. If your Zone does not have a Youth Merit Advisor, the workbook must be returned to the East Side or West Side Youth Merit Chair depending upon the side of the State in which you reside. When mailing your workbook to either the East Side or West Side Chair, you must submit the ORIGINAL workbook and only the pages on which tasks were done during the current year. It is highly recommended that you copy the pages you are sending and maintain them until your original is returned to you at the Annual Convention in case the packet is misplaced in the mail. It is further suggested that these be sent Return Receipt Requested to verify arrival. Remember to send in accompanying paperwork for tasks that say "List", "Describe", "Write", "Explain", or "Draw".

What type of awards can be received? Plaques, medallions, t-shirts, jackets, belt buckles, and cash awards are awarded each year to Youth Merit Members. These awards are presented at the Annual WSH Convention. At this age level, most children will likely receive the Participation Award (50 points). Some may also earn the Yellow Tag / Certificate of Merit (100 points), Red Tag / Certificate of Excellence (200 points), T-Shirt and Blue Tag / Honor of Excellence (300 points), and Bronze Medallion (500 points). Although there are additional awards, the highest level a child working solely in Workbook 1 may obtain in a single year would be the Bronze Medallion. Youth unable to attend Convention should designate a representative to obtain the awards on their behalf. Awards will not be mailed to prevent loss.

Do I start over each year on my points? The awards listed previously are given each year to enrolled members based upon their cumulative totals. The points are carried forward into the next year without interruption.

May I repeat tasks each year? Most of the tasks, especially in the later workbooks, are to be answered one-time. Once a Youth Merit Member receives credit for these tasks, they cannot be repeated. Only tasks marked an asterisk (*) may be repeated annually.

Are there additional special awards? Youth Merit has five perpetual trophies given out each year at the Annual WSH Convention. Children 6 and under may compete for the High Point 10 and Under, the Chet Kelley Memorial Award for the most community service points (Sections 14 and 15), or the Del Haack Junior Achievement Award for the most overall points. Points for these awards are based upon NEW points earned each year rather than cumulative points earned over the duration of their membership in the program.



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

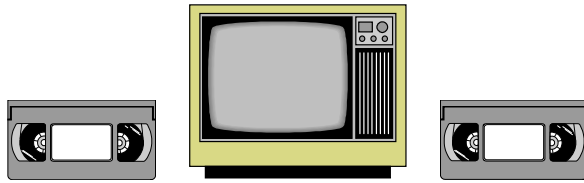
CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ WSH #: _____ ZONE: _____

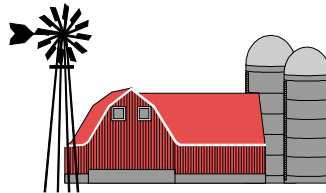
YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____



NUMBER	TASK DESCRIPTION	POINTS
2.4*	Watch a horse related video of your choice. Limit of 5 tapes a year.	3 points each

DATE	NAME OF VIDEO	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	POINTS



NUMBER	TASK DESCRIPTION	POINTS
3.5*	Help take care of a friend's barn or animals for at least two days. (Max 6 times / year)	2 points each

DATE	NAME OF BARN / RANCH / ANIMAL(S)	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	POINTS



NUMBER	TASK DESCRIPTION	POINTS
16.1*	Promote the Youth Merit Program to a friend. For each one who enrolls in the program, you receive 2 points.	2 points

DATE	FRIEND'S NAME	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	POINTS

