

## 2007 AHA Youth of the Year, Kirsten Kimbler



*Congratulations* to the 2007 AHA Youth of the Year, Kirsten Kimbler!

**2007 AHA Convention  
Youth of the Year Presentation to General Assembly  
Delivered November 17, 2007  
Presentation by Kristi Howes**

The 2007 Youth of the Year was selected by the Youth of the Year Sub-Committee members: Chair, Larry Hoffman, Jennifer Goslin, Deborah Johnson, Mary Alice Hudson, Sheryl McConnel and Nancy Jorge.

The Youth Committee works to keep the Youth of the Year honor relevant and continues to elevate the standards. This program has gained a reputation for setting the bar high - and for good reason. Our past winners have been exceptional and gone on to represent us extraordinarily well.

Without a shadow of a doubt, all three of our finalists are outstanding young people and excellent breed representatives. Region 8 has good reason to be proud of their active youth members, and in particular a young lady named Jordan Owen. Jordan is devoted to her community, and excels in her 4-H involvement and outstanding horse judging experience. We congratulate Jordan Owen as second runner-up for Youth of the Year.

Region 9 is home to an exceptional young lady who currently serves as the AHYA Vice President and Region 9 Youth Director. Her name is Annalise Himmel. Annalise is a talented student and she's highly involved in her community, showing Arabian and Half- Arabian horses, and school athletics. Annalise is also heavily involved in her school's Student Council and the National Honor Society. We send our congratulations to Annalise Himmel, the 2007 first runner-up for Youth of the Year.

It is never easy to choose just one youth member to honor with this award. One candidate distinguished herself, however, with her optimistic personality, tenacity, her tireless dedication to her goals, her unwavering commitment to the Arabian horse, and excellence in every aspect of her life. Folks, today Region 6 has certainly earned its place in the sun! It is now my distinct honor to describe to you an outstanding youth from Region 6.

This young lady is involved in her local 4-H club. She participates on her 4-H Horse Judging, Hippology, and Horse Quiz Bowl Teams. She was elected in 2007 to represent South Dakota at the Western States Roundup in Horse Judging.

Her outgoing nature allows her to excel in many leadership rolls. She was selected to serve on the inaugural USEF Youth Council and assumed the roll of Chair of the Convention Committee. As Chair, she has helped plan the first ever USEF Youth Convention which will debut in January of 2008.

Since she attended her first Arabian Horse Youth Association Convention, she knew she wanted to be a leader in AHYA. In 2006 she was elected AHYA Vice President. As Vice President she put together Committee Packets to help AHYA better understand and utilize committees. She also helped to get "Youth Chat" organized and on the AHA Forums.

Community service is another dedicated interest of hers, and she gives back to her hometown of Aberdeen, South Dakota by caroling at nursing homes, tutoring math students, and helping with

food drives. She is an avid environmentalist and assists in cleaning up her school's parking lots and bike paths; recycling paper and bottles, in addition to improving her community through highway cleanups.

Intelligence, motivation and hard work are the foundation of this young woman's approach to schoolwork. She was a member of the National Honor Society, making the honor roll every single semester. She graduated high school this year with honors and a 4.261 GPA.

Weeks before starting her freshman year at South Dakota State University, she was involved in a terrible automobile accident. Due to the emotional and physical repercussions of the accident it was unclear if she would start school this fall. With sheer determination she strived to start that next chapter of her life and attended classes this fall. This experience has made her more determined than ever to reach her goals of being a surgeon. She is hopeful that her experience will make her a more compassionate doctor.

Endurance riding is an area of particular devotion in her life, and our winner has competed in many AHA National Fifty Mile Endurance Rides. This year she competed in her first 100 mile FEI ride as a Young Rider. Although she was pulled from the Tevis Cup in 2006, she rode 85 miles of grueling trail and was still at the finish line to cheer on her dad and sister. To date she has earned over 1000 competitive endurance miles and two AHA National Ride Completion Belt Buckles.

In short, our Youth of the Year is the very definition of the word motivation. She excels in everything she does. This exceptional individual sees a promising future for the Arabian horse and hopes AHA will continue to reach out to kids like her and offer them all of the same experiences she has been privileged to share. It is truly our honor to welcome her to the ranks of Youth of the Year and present her with the Youth of the Year Perpetual trophy.

Ladies and Gentleman, I am proud to present, from Aberdeen, South Dakota, your 2007 Youth of the Year, Kirsten Kimbler.

*Reprinted from the AHA web site.*

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