2027 Youth Board of Director Candidates



Ashlee Buddenborg

Hi, my name is Ashlee Buddenborg. I am a senior in high school attending Stockbridge Jr/Sr high. I've been riding horses since 2020 but only showing quarter horses for 2 years. The horse that I show is named Kate AKA "Sheza Showstopper". I would like to be on the MQHYA board because I like getting more involved in the shows and meeting other youth members.

Jorja Boulter



Hi, I am Jorja Boulter. I am very excited for the 2027 show season. Along with trusty show partner Ryder who I have been showing for 5 years I will also have a 2 year old gelding - Billy Ray, that I will be starting myself. While beginning the process of retiring Ryder will be an emotional one, I am very excited about my future with Billy Ray. I appreciate the opportunities that MQHA provides, I am the current MQHA Princess and a current MQHYA Board member. I am hopeful to continue to be a part of MQHA and MQHYA in the future. Thank you for considering me, I would appreciate your support in voting for me to continue my work as an MQHYA board member.



Isabel Craig

Hi! My name is Isabel Craig. I have been showing MQHA with my current show horse, Jello, for a few years. I also have a coming 3 year old filly at home that I hope to start showing. I would love to continue my journey on the MQHYA Board, by meeting new people and improving in all aspects of showing.

Lia D'Epifanio



Hi, my name is Lia D'Epifanio. I am 13 years old and I go to Oxford Middle School. I have been riding for several years. I started leasing horses 3 years ago and did open shows and in December 2025 I got my first horse. This is also my first year doing MQHA so far it's been a fun, challenging and rewarding year. I am proud to be part of the Oxford Equestrian Team and the Michelle Warda Performance Horses Team. My favorite disciplines are showmanship, horsemanship, and equitation. Some things I like to do outside of the barn are go skiing, boating, swimming and hang out with my friends and family. I enjoy helping my friends with their horses. I also enjoy volunteering at 4-H shows. I would like to be part of the board to be more involved in the MQHYA.

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Madison Eastman



Hi, my name is Madison Eastman. I am 14 years old and a freshman in High School. I have owned my horse AJ for the past two years and have been showing with MQHA for the past 4 years now. I really enjoy the all around events because of the variety but horsemanship is becoming my favorite event. I am interested in becoming a board member to learn more about the shows and how I can help out more. I would love to meet new people, make new friends and get to know my competitors better as we all have common interests/goals as we can't do this sport without our competitors encouraging us along the way.

Teagan Frisbie



My name is Teagan Frisbie, I've been showing the MQHA circuit for about a year and a half now. I started showing with my new partner Anotherdayinparadise, I've been showing in the Level 1 and open youth all around events, I have all sorts of positions such as I'm standing as the 2026-2027 sentinel for the Ionia FFA chapter and I also am the president for my 4-H club that shows at the Ionia County Fair, I love to help people out with anything they need. I was previously on the MQHA youth board for last year and I had a blast and hope to do it again this year!

Rye Gill



Hey I am Rye Gill and I am 15 years old. Me and my family have been showing horses all my life. I have been an MQ member for 10ish years and My horse is Brown Eyed Bay(Minnie). I always like being on the board because of all the exciting things I get to be a part of. I especially like all the friendships that have come from it! Looking forward to another fun year with you guys!

Tennley Kelts



Hi, my name is Tennley Kelts, and I previously served on the MQHYA Board as a director last year. I would love the opportunity to serve again for 2027 and continue supporting MQHYA and its youth members. I have been involved with MQHA since I was a Small Fry in 2023, when I attended my first Congress with my old horse, KM Best N Slow. I now show my horse, Details in the Sky, also known as Bob. We have competed at Level 1, Youth Worlds and Congress, and this will be our second Congress together and our first time competing in NYATT. Outside of MQHA, I am very involved in my school and have been part of leadership and student council for the past three years. MQHA has given me so many opportunities and experiences, and I would love the chance to give back by helping make MQHYA an even better organization for its youth members.

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Mackenzie Killackey



Hi! My name is Mackenzie Killackey, and I am 13 years old. I started riding when I was two years old on a pony named Hunny, and I have loved horses ever since! I started showing when I was eight years old through 4-H and open shows, and I began showing at MQHA shows about three years ago. I currently show my horse, Willy Pimped My Ride, aka "Hugo," in Showmanship, Halter, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Equitation and Hunt Seat. Some of my goals for next year are to start competing in Level 1 and 13 & Under classes. My favorite part of showing is spending time with my friends and getting to ride my horse. I'm excited to continue learning, improving, and making more memories with Hugo!



Ellaina Malloy

My name is Ellaina Malloy. I am 16 years old and a junior at Big Rapids Public Schools. This is my first year with MQHA and I have loved every part of it! I show my gelding Reggie (WF Dynamic Invite) in the rookie and level one all-around events. I am also involved in our local 4-H program as well as MIHA. I'm hoping to be a member of the MQHYA board so that I can be a part of making this as special for others as it has been for me.

Isabella Pybus



Hi, my name is Isabella Pybus and this coming year will be my fifth year showing through MQHA. I am very excited for this coming year as I will be showing my new horse, a four year old gelding named Ted. This will be a big change for me as I had previously shown my mare for the past four years, but she is now pregnant! I was on the MQHYA Board this past year and I enjoyed getting to know the other board members and being able to help the people around me with questions they had. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the 2027 MQHYA Board.



Audrey Rokita

Hello, my name is Audrey Rokita and I attend Northwest Middle School. This has been my second year showing and riding my horse Fred with MQHA. When I am not showing my horse I enjoy other activities like band, musical theater and camping. I always look forward to going to MQ shows and I would love to be part of making the behind the scenes happen . If I become part of the youth board I am excited to meet other youth that share a love of horse showing and a wanting to build on our great program.

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Xandrea Sandusky



My name is Xandrea Sandusky, and I have been around horses for as long as I can remember. For the past 3–4 years, I have been involved with the MQHYA board, serving as vice president, chairman, and reporter. I was also honored to receive the 2025 Youth Sportsperson of the Year award. I show all-around events with my horse, Pepper, also known as The Social Network. We have grown together from our first small class to our first World Show, where we earned Reserve World Champion in Level 3 13 & Under Showmanship. Now, we are taking on our first year in the 14–18 age division. Pepper has taught me so much, both in and out of the show pen, and our journey has shown me just how special the bond between a horse and rider can be. I believe youth should have a place where they feel welcomed, supported, and surrounded by others who share their love for horses. Having an opportunity to be able to be a part of such a supportive group has meant so much to me over the past few years. Being part of MQHYA has given me opportunities to grow, learn, and make memories that I will carry with me for years to come. I would love the opportunity to help give back to an organization that has meant so much to me and help make it an even better experience for other youth members. That is why I believe I would be a good candidate for the 2027 MQHYA Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ava Savage



Hi, my name is Ava Savage. I am 16 years old and a junior at Fowler High School. I live in St. Johns with my dad, mom, and younger sister. I have been a member of MQHA for 8 years and have been a part of the MQHYA board for 3 years and have previously served as the treasurer. I have been riding and showing horses my whole life. I currently have a new 3 year old mare that I will be showing in the hunt seat events and train under the guidance of Jenny Bluhm Performance Horses. Outside of horses I am active in National Honor Society and I love to deer hunt and go on camping trips with my family. I would love to continue to serve as an MQHYA board member as I love promoting this great association and welcoming new youth.

MiKayla Winter



My name is MiKayla Winter and I currently participate with my horse, Legally Blondie, in the all-around events. I have been on the MQHYA Board for two years and loved every second of it. My experience on the board has really helped me to be involved in the industry and create great relationships. I have been showing for 9 years and this was my first year showing at the MQHA circuit. I had an amazing experience and loved learning about the industry, everyone involved is so kind and willing to help. I would love to serve another year on the board to continue to be involved, share my ideas, and help promote not just the MQHYA Board but MQHA as a whole to others. I am a great leader and am comfortable meeting new people. I want to help create opportunities that make younger members feel welcomed and excited to be part of the MQHA industry. Being considered for the MQHA Youth Board would be an incredible opportunity. I would be proud to represent MQHA youth for another year and contribute my ideas and passion to the organization.