Area III Young Riders

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From the YR Coordinator

What do you want out of the Young Rider Program? We have over 200 members in the YR program and I want to hear from you. So here is my idea. I want to create a YR council or junior board made up of current YR members across the levels who meet with me monthly so we can plan upcoming events for the YR's. Sound interesting? Want to be a part of the council/junior board? Email me with your interest. To start with I would like to have two members from each level (Starter, BN, N, T, M, and P) and one member from Intermediate level.

My other idea is I would like to have YR reps/ambassadors at horse trials. I would like a YR (or two at the same event) to commit to running a YR table at an event they are riding in. You would set up a table with the YR banner and promotional items and talk up the program at that event. If you wanted to set up a course walk with an upper level rider we could arrange that too. Your "iob" would be to promote the YR program at that competition. Sound fun, like talking to people well then send me an email saying which competition you would like to be a rep/ambassador at and we can make it happen.

Lee Ann Gilson

USEF Young Rider Eventing Championships

This year the Championships are being held in California. Galway Downs is hosting the Championships November $1^{\text{st}} - 5^{\text{th}}$. Our declared riders are Evelyn Davis Douglas, Daisy Frank, Jordan Knight, Kate Midgley, Crockett Miller, and Lara Roberts. Cheer each one of these riders on as they try out for the team.

These riders have a big undertaking in fundraising this year so expect to see a lot of fundraising activities from them and the Area III YR program. Please help out where you can.

YR Camp update

The Area III YR Camp was a huge success this year! We had 27 riders and 30 horses signed up this year. Camp was held at Majestic Oaks Ocala and what a beautiful facility it is. Marisa and Ronnie couldn't have been more accommodating and took very good care of all of us. Our instructors were Jon Holling, Ashley Johnson, and Lauren Eckardt.

Camp kicked off with private dressage lessons Thursday followed by a welcome dinner provided by Marisa and Ronnie. Friday and Saturday were packed with dressage rides, course or grid work, cross country, and a pacing clinic. We also had numerous educational lectures both days provided by Angie from Seminole, Bekah with PEMF, Tiffany from DAC, Christine with OGS, and Ashley with her sports psychology workshops. Jon, Cyndi, Marisa, and Ashley provided a Q&A discussion covering the "backside" of competitions.

Saturday evening was karaoke night and awards. We had great prizes provided by Correct Connect and IRH for our campers. Juanita received the sportsmanship award and the top three teams in point accrued throughout camp received prizes as well.

Sunday we finished off camp with course work and every rider showed much improvement in their riding. Cannot wait until next year.

EA21 Program

The purpose of the program "is to identify and provide consistent quality instruction to the next generation of elite event riders. The aim is to create a pipeline for potential team riders by identifying and developing young talent, improving horsemanship and riding skills, and training and improving skills and consistency." This program was born in 2022 and five regional clinics were held with one national winter clinic for riders picked from the regional clinics. This year is following the same path.

The two East Coast clinics are happening June 27th – 28th at Morven Park in VA and July 25th – 26th at Stable View in SC. Chloe Paddack will be attending the Morven Park clinic. Kate Midgley, Alina Patterson, Breeana Robinette, and Mackenzie Vaneffen will be attending the Stable View clinic. Crockett Miller made the wait list for Stable View. With over 200 applicants for these clinics and only 12 spots at each clinic I am proud of these riders for being chosen.

Interscholastic Eventing League (IEL)

While the Interscholastic Eventing League (IEL) is not directly linked to the Young Rider program there is the opportunity for Area III YR's to form teams at competitions and compete in the EIL. "The mission of the IEL is to bring together junior riders with a common interest and provide a supportive community through which students can continue to pursue their riding interests. The program will encourage team camaraderie and will give junior members a chance to compete in a team atmosphere." This program is open to individuals currently in the 7th to 12th grades and competing at USEA events. Riders can only affiliate themselves with one interscholastic team and often it is their barn or pony club that will put together a team and submit the roster to USEA. For those riders who find themselves without a team you may join the Area III Young Rider Affiliate roster so you will be eligible to compete in the IEL competitions.

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

July 1st – 2nd –AR/YR Team Challenge at Area III Championships at Chatt Hills

August 19th – 20th – YR Team Challenge at Ocala Summer HT II

Sept 29th – Oct 1st – YR Team Challenge at Stable View Oktoberfest

October 14th – 15th – YR Team Challenge at Poplar Place Farm

October 18th – 22nd – Hagyard Midsouth Three-day Event, let's send some teams this year!

November 17th – 19th – YR Team Challenge at Terra Nova

Area III YR Coaches Corner -

Hey All! Winter season is over, but we still have so much going on in Area III! Here are a few highlights from my end!

- USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships: They took forever to announce it, but we are going to California this year to Galway Downs from November 2-5: Go Area III!!!! I already know of several riders who are going to commit to making the trip out to Galway if they are selected. Let's band together and make this work for our top Young Riders of 2023!
- Area III Championships at Chattahoochee Hills from July 1-2: I know a number of you who are going! I will be one of the TD's that weekend. I hope you come over and say hi!
- AEC's from August 29-September 3: OK, this isn't in Area III, but I know a lot of you are getting qualified and planning to go! Let's represent Area III!
- Hagyard Midsouth Team Challenge from October 18-22: We are sending teams this year! I already have had a number of junior and young riders at all levels tell me that this is their year-end goal. If you are interested, please reach out! The word on the street is that they are going to try to add a 1*, too. This competition will be a lot of fun for all!

There is so much ahead of us right now! I hope you will join in and connect with other Area III riders!

Coach Ashley