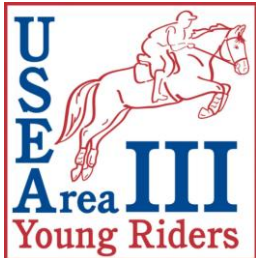


Area III Young Riders

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From the YR Coordinator

My final thoughts as my time as the Area 3 YR Coordinator come to a close are that this has been a challenging and rewarding three years. I have made new friends and found wonderful supporters of the YR program. This program has gone through a rebuilding phase the last six years and I believe it has come out stronger and with loads of potential. I know throwing Covid into the mix when it was rebuilding didn't help but here we are, resilient. Our camp this year was a huge success and I was glad to see it happen and be a part of it. I still have all the fun videos on my phone from the great games that Amy came up with for us to play.

I want to encourage all the members and parents to continue to show your support to the new coordinators as they navigate these waters. There will be a learning curve for them as there is for each new coordinator when

A helpful piece of advice:

Over the last three years I have noticed a general issue that many of you have dealt with and would like to bring light to it. If you are set up for auto-renew with the USEA it does NOT automatically renew your membership in the YR program. You must manually go in and renew your membership to the YR program each year.

I believe this is because you eventually age out of the program and you must pick Training and below or Modified and above for your membership level.

From the YR Coordinator continued

they come in. Each program is a little different in how they are run. It takes time to learn the "new" ways of the current program you are volunteering with.

For those setting their sights on the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships for 2024 rest assured the Area III YR Coach and selectors have one more year with you all before the council will begin their search for a coach and selectors. I hope that Ashley Johnson will submit her coach application again for another three years because she has been a wonderful asset to the program. I also hope Hilda Donahue, Lauren Eckardt, Michael Pollard, and Sarah Dunkerton Sizemore will consider submitting their resumes again for selectors because they did a wonderful job these last two years.

I believe Joanne Morse and Jessica Robinette have great things in store for the program. I look forward to following the program and seeing all the new developments. Thank you all for being supportive of me and my ventures as the Area III YR Coordinator. I will not forget these last three years.

Area III YR Team Challenges

We had a team challenge at Stable View in Sept/Oct and the winning team Been There Done That received \$50 gift certificates to VTO Saddlery. The second place team GWIF Groupies and third place team Go For Blue both received \$25 gift certificates each to VTO Saddlery. I am sure there was happy shopping going on.

We had a team challenge at Poplar Place Farm in October and the winning team GWIF Groupies received \$50 entry certificates to use at any Poplar Place Farm horse trial or schooling show. The second place team Mummy May We and third place team Hocus Pocus received \$25 entry certificates. I bet the parents appreciated that prize ;-)

Our last team challenge is happening this weekend at TerraNova. Check out our Facebook page USEA Area III Young Riders and group USEA Area III Young Riders for results.

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 IEL. "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. There is a possibility for the Area III Young Rider program to create a team for those riders who find themselves without a team.

Upcoming Events

November 17th – 19th – YR Team Challenge at TerraNova

December 1st – the two new YR Coordinators, Joanne Morse & Jessica Robinette, assume their responsibilities

December 7 – 10th – USEA Annual Meeting & Convention

Area III YR Coaches Corner -

The end of 2023 marks the end of my second year as the Area III Young Rider Coach. Throughout the last two years I have met and followed many Area III young riders, and it has been exciting to watch these riders grow and progress as athletes and individuals. Some riders have entered college, some have graduated from college, some have moved up a level or two in their riding, competed at their first FEI event, or gotten a new horse to partner with. One Area III young rider that I know traveled to the AEC's for her first time this year to compete at the Beginner Novice level. She loved her weekend there, and jumped clear cross country and show jumping rounds to finish on her dressage score just outside of the ribbons. Another Area III young rider that I know completed her fall CCI2*-L last month in the ribbons on a horse that she has been producing herself. In the past year I have seen Area III young riders have a fantastic time together at camps and clinics, I have seen Area III young riders get chosen to ride in the USEA Emerging Athletes U21 program. I have seen Area III young riders develop friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I have also seen the parents of Area III riders make tremendous sacrifices to be the support crew for their children in a sport that can't be done without behind-the-scenes help. Although the logistics of sending a team to the USEA Young Rider Championships this year proved to be too much, I know that our more experienced area riders have not been sitting idle. They have been training and competing and honing their skills for next year, and I am excited to see the fruits of their labor in 2024! At the end of this month, Lee Ann Gilson ends her tenure as Area III Young Rider Coordinator. When I stepped in as coach, Lee Ann was the one who welcomed me and oriented me to the program. She has put in many long hours as area coordinator, and she deserves appreciation from all of us for the effort she has put into this volunteer position.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you out there in 2024!

Best,
Coach Ashley