

Update on the Youth from the Regional Youth Director

Hi, my name is Sydney Arnold. I am your Regional Youth Director for the next two years along with Jessica Hornung as the Vice Director. We are very lucky to be in a Region that strongly supports our youth and seriously listens to our concerns. I would like to take this time to thank the Regional Board and each of the individual clubs for this support of time, effort, and money for our programs. Feel free to contact myself or Jessica to express your concerns, ideas, and successes at any time. Our e-mails, phone numbers and addresses are listed on the Regional and WAHA websites.

At Youth Nationals, the Youth Directors had a meeting in which we went over our regional reports and posters. For the most, we discussed the activities and financial plans for the course of the next few days for youth activities, workshops, and the convention. Everyone was responsible for helping at a workshop and to attend the convention. Fortunately I was able to help decorate the Youth Hall and to then attend the convention. The speaker was great and the “warming up/getting to know each other” games helped conversation between the youth. Something we could improve on was the voting and activities while the vote was counted. Luckily, Angela Manning was able to get a trailer for us to raffle off again this year at US Nationals, good job Angela! The “Guitar Hero” playoff was a hit and also scored us some money for the youth programs on a national level. I hope everyone got a chance to play!! I would encourage the youth to attend the activities at Youth Nationals to be better informed and to have fun. This year the western clinic was very informative and I learned a lot about what the judges were looking for and what “not” to do.

At US Nationals, the Youth Directors had our annual meeting. After discussing our individual Regions, we moved on to the AHYA committees. I am on the Public Relations and Membership, Fundraising, and Promotion committees. The Directors decided to keep the format for the AHYA Convention the same along with the schedule but ruled out the workshops due to lack of interest from the competitors. We chose speakers that we hope will encourage youth attendance and went over the golf cart themes. The idea for the youth café was a hit, a few issues with clean up help were presented. The trailer was very profitable this year, along with the Flying Pigs and “Guitar Hero”. There are issues with communication between the Regions, so ideas such as a partnership with a Region was discussed. A big topic from the Sport Horse Committee was whether or not the youth would want to bring back the idea of having the top five equitation riders switch horses to prove they have the ability to ride any horse. This would be at the Regional and/or National level. If anyone has any comments or ideas for me, especially for any of the committees that I am on, please contact me.

Sydney Arnold
Regional Youth Director