

**Morgan Medallion Classic**  
**Youth of the Year Contest 2025**

Dear Participant:

Thank you for deciding to join us at the Morgan Medallion Classic Horse Show, Youth of the Year Contest. The Youth of the Year contest is designed to encourage youth to become well versed in all areas of horsemanship. Although many excel in certain areas, the competition rewards a cumulative score in four divisions. Each category is worth 250 points. It is not necessary to compete in all four divisions. The high point winner in each division will culminate into the Walk/Trot, Junior (13 & under) and Senior (14-21) Youth of the Year.

The awards will be presented Saturday evening at the start of the session. The Senior winner will win a \$200 scholarship towards their trip to compete at the 2025 Youth of the Year Contest at the Morgan Grand National.

***Entry fee is \$25 payable to Morgan Medallion***  
***Cash or check only***  
***Payment will be collected at registration***  
***(See schedule for more details)***

Enclosed please find the following:

1. Speech Topics
2. Riding Patterns
3. Contest time schedule
4. General rules

## **Speeches:**

- Speeches should be original work.
- The use of AI and plagiarism is prohibited.
- AMHA is looking for your speech to be creative, original and opinion-based.
- Bring an extra copy of your speech for the judges.
- Site your references on your written copy for speech.
- Phone use is highly discouraged.

## **Speech Topics:**

### **Senior:**

Choose a professional person in the Morgan industry you would like to intern with. Explain the internship, why you chose this person and what you would hope to learn.

### **Junior**

Who is your all-time favorite Morgan horse? Explain why you chose this horse and include a description.

### **Walk Trot:**

Explain the proper steps to groom a horse and what is included in your tack box.

## **Best practices for a successful speech:**

- Practice your speech.
  - Make eye contact and avoid reading to the judges.
  - Be confident in your voice.
  - Use visuals to help tell your story. Be sure visuals are large enough for the judges to see.
  - Speeches should be 3-5 minutes but no longer than 5 mins.
  - See scoresheet for what you are being scored on.
  - See AMHA Merit Programs for informational source
- <https://www.morganhorse.com/programs/youth/merit-program>

# **Youth Contest Schedule**

## **Horsemanship Patterns – Due July 17, 2025**

- Horsemanship Patterns will be recorded and sent for review and scoring. Please send your pattern to: [Jolenegalvin@yahoo.com](mailto:Jolenegalvin@yahoo.com)
- You do not need to wear show clothes; however appropriate attire is mandatory. You are scored on your turnout. NO TANK TOPS.
- Pattern is attached to email.

The horsemanship phase of the Youth of the Year contest evaluates your riding or driving ability. It is important to realize that this is a horsemanship pattern, not an equitation pattern. In scoring this phase the judge will evaluate:

- Obedience of horse and correctness in the execution of the pattern
- Transitions and smoothness of overall appearance and use of aids
- Showmanship and poise
- Grooming and presentation of horse and handler

## **Thursday – July 17, 2025**

### **12:45 – 1:15 PM– Registration**

- Meet at out gate of main arena with Sharon Boyce Bender

1:30 PM - **Judging gelding's in-hand with oral reasons to follow.**

*Please bring a notebook and something to write with.*

### **2:00 PM – Speeches**

**Exam** - The exam will be given through a link which will be emailed to you from Jolene Galvin. You will receive the email on Wednesday, and the link will be good until Friday at 12pm. You will have one hour to complete the exam. You must have access to the internet to complete the exam. The exam is not open book. The exams must be completed by Friday, July 18 at 12pm NO EXCEPTIONS. If you do not receive the exam, please email Jolenegalvin@yahoo.com

### **5:00 PM - Judging Part 2**

- Only 3 classes to be judged. Classes to be judged and location will be announced in the afternoon. Alternative classes will be given for those showing in the evening performance. *Please bring something to write with.*

## **Saturday – July 19, 2025**

### **4:45 PM – Youth Contest Awards:**

Meet in center ring. Awards to be given at the start of Saturday Evening Session.

*Please wear appropriate attire for center ring and group picture.*

## **Contest Rules**

1. Each of the phases is worth 250 points.
2. Six ribbons will be awarded for the best scores in each division. Cumulative scores for each division will result in a Walk/Trot (12 and under) High Point Award, a Junior (under 14) High Point Award and a Senior (14-21) High Point Award. Overall Champions will receive a trophy and ribbons through six places.
3. Youth who score over 800 points in the senior age division are named Youth of the Year, which qualifies him or her to compete for AMHA Youth of the Year at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City.
4. Oral Presentation should be between 3 to 5 minutes in length.
5. Visual aids are permitted and encouraged.
6. Give only your contestant number (which will be assigned) to the judges.
7. Please bring an extra copy of your speech on the day of the contest for the judges.
8. A short personal interview will follow the speech.
9. Show attire is not required, but riders should be neatly dressed.
10. The appearance of your horse and equipment will be taken into consideration.
11. The exam will consist of 125-250 question in the form of multiple choice, matching, and fill-ins and will test your knowledge of the following:
  - Equine Nutrition
  - Reproduction and genetics
  - Anatomy and Physiology
  - Morgan breed history, rules and regulations
  - Confirmation, gaits, unsoundness, and blemishes
  - Equine diseases and parasites and their treatment
  - Equine Behavior
  - Tack and Equipment

### **ATTENTION: Senior Contestants**

**A contestant that has qualified to compete at the Nationals MUST have completed their Sherman badge BEFORE the time of the National contest.**

- Youth who score over 800 points in the senior age division are named Youth of the Year, which qualifies him or her to compete for AMHA Youth of the Year at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City.
- If only one contestant is entered in a contest, they MUST score over 700 points to qualify for the Grand National Youth of the Year Contest.
- Senior contestants can only win ONE youth of the year contest per year. The same contestant can compete in all four divisions of another contest but CANNOT place overall.
- The competition year to qualify for the national contest is September 1–August 31. A contest overlapping these dates will go by the first date of the contest. Please note that youth members who win a senior contest held after September 1 have the option of competing at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show® the same year OR the following year.
- The winner of the Grand National Youth of the Year Contest can no longer compete in any local, regional, or national youth contests.