

# NRHyA Youth Inspire

**H**ow do you go about changing the world? You start by raising leaders.

I'm always looking for inspiration. At the recent 6666 NRHA Derby presented by Markel, I was inspired by great horses and riders performing spectacularly. There was something equally amazing going on and just as inspirational. It centers around NRHyA.

Many people associate the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) with the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund that assists reiners in hard times. This is the reason I joined the RHF board, but the RHF is about more than the crisis fund. It's also about reining youth.

Rather naively, I was under the impression that the RHF supported youth reiners by helping with parties, dances and scavenger hunts. At the Derby, that notion was turned on its head when I had the pleasure of speaking with NRHyA's national officers about their recent experiences in Washington, D.C.

What the RHF and NRHA are doing is truly inspirational. We are creating LEADERS — not just in our reining community, but changemakers who will positively influence our towns, nations and world.

These young leaders and others from the American Quarter Horse Youth Association met with our nation's legislators about the equine industry. They spoke on topics ranging from the preservation of equine trails to census-taking that accurately accounts for horses and the economic impact they make, and far-reaching, climate-smart, sustainable methods of farming as proposed in the recent Farm Bill.

Being a lawyer, I thought I would grill them "attorney style" to see

how they stood up. THEY WERE INCREDIBLE! They handled questions like pros, passing them off to the person most knowledgeable on each topic. They were articulate, diplomatic, kind and extremely thoughtful, never pulling out a phone or losing focus. I was so in awe and proud of them! I can only imagine how impressed our legislators were.

Later, I found myself reflecting on how moved I am that the RHF is creating leaders. From leadership training with trips to our nation's capital that effect change in the equine industry to exposure to life beyond the confines of normal teen experiences, these are advantages that the RHF is providing promising young people.

Because of your gifts to the RHF, young people are experiencing the impact they can make and learning their ability to change the world around them. At a time when many of our world's youth feel powerless, we are creating a space where reining's young people are coming away empowered.

Now that's inspirational!



**Jamie Walters**  
RHF Board Member

To donate, visit [reiningfoundation.com](http://reiningfoundation.com), or contact the RHF at 405-946-7400, ext. 106, or at [rhf@nrha.com](mailto:rhf@nrha.com).



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