

What does the NRHyA mean to me?



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NRHyA VICE PRESIDENT LIZ BLASER

When asking myself this question, many things came to my mind: the opportunities, memories, lifelong friends and so much more. However, I think what sums up everything well are Amit Ray's words, “Everyone has the fire, but the champions know when to ignite the spark.” Ray is an author who is best known for his teachings on peace and compassion. I am not an author nor a teacher but I believe that I understand Ray's words about fire. To me, the fire Ray refers to is the passion to achieve something greater—a passion I believe each NRHyA member has inside. The NRHyA ignites each spark as it provides youth with opportunities to become champions inside and outside of the arena. I have always thought that when one rider earns a 74 inside the arena and another rider gains the confidence to give a speech in front of a group of people, both of them experience the same amount of excitement and self-pride when that goal is achieved. All of this is because the NRHyA fosters personal leadership qualities in order to give youth the tools they need to become leaders inside and outside of the arena, since youth are the future of the National Reining Horse Association. For me, the NRHA youth classes provide me the opportunity to show my horse against other riders my age. In 2012, when I was first introduced to the sport of reining, youth riders were winning classes with a 69.5 or a 70. Now, riders hardly place in the top ten when they score a 71.5. This increase in scores is only one example of how youth are proving that they are invested in, and care about, the future of the sport of reining. Their breathtaking performances in the arena highlight the bright future the equine industry has as a whole as well. However, the NRHyA also provides youth with opportunities outside of the arena; college scholarships, Varsity Reining Club (VRC), NRHyA delegate positions, and NRHyA national officer positions are just a few opportunities that NRHyA provides to youth. These opportunities have allowed me to learn more about the other side of the equine industry. I have also grown personally, especially in my self-confidence. Being from a small farm in Duncan, Nebraska, I had heard of some of the biggest names in the equine industry and now, because of my experiences as a NRHyA officer, I have met these people I once only knew of by name. What continues to motivate me is the fact that I have opportunities to grow now, and then one day, be able to give back to an association and an industry that has given so much to me. In conclusion, the fire is burning bright within me and thanks to the NRHyA, I have learned from the past, am enjoying the now, and am looking forward to the future. The future of the NRHyA is bright and it is only getting brighter thanks to the fire within us all.

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