

Serving our Youth Members

NRHyA SECRETARY ASHTON KNERR



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Hello,

My name is Ashton Knerr and I am the current NRHyA Secretary for the 2018 year. I am truly excited to be a part of this wonderful organization and to have the chance to make an impact. Although it has been what feels like a few short months since I was elected as an officer, it truly has been an amazing experience.

Earlier this year, our officer team was able to attend an awesome workshop facilitated by Kelly Barnes who truly opened my eyes to all the different aspects it takes to be a good and effective leader. Barnes made our leadership workshops fun and exciting. Our brains were constantly thinking and we learned so much in just a few short days. We learned key skills that will not only help us as officers this year serving the youth members but will also help us in the years to come. From this trip, I also had the chance to get to know my fellow officers—Taylor Masson, Liz Blaser, Grace Wilson and Emma Lane—a little bit more. We had plenty of laughs and made memories. It was our first official NRHA event to attend all together as an officer team. I am very excited for the rest of this year and to see what it has in store for us as an officer team! I was also able to spend time with our amazing new youth programs advisor, Lerin Thomas, who is very energetic and dedicated to this program.

I started this show season off by going down to Jacksonville, Florida, for the Florida Reining Classic. I showed my horse, Rio One Step Closer, and had a great time. While I was there I was excited to see many youth showing and getting involved with the show. I also met new youth members and talked with those who have been involved with NRHA for a while. We have many talented youth members that strive to do their best, both in and out of the show pen. It is such a humbling experience to serve our youth members and get to watch them achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

My next adventure coming up in the show season will be with IEA. For those of you who do not know about IEA, it stands for Interscholastic Equestrian Association. IEA is an organization that is graciously sponsored by NRHA. It includes both horsemanship and reining classes for 6th to 12th graders, and you do not have to own your own horse to show. IEA Nationals run concurrently with the NRHA Derby so, if you have any interest or curiosity, we would love to see you there.

Speaking of the NRHA Derby, I hope you are all making plans to attend! The 2018 NRHA Derby will be held June 23 – July 1 in Oklahoma City at the State Fair Park. The officer team has many fun events planned for the youth, along with a community service project you won't want to miss out on and our mid-year youth meeting. The CINCH NRHyA Speaking Contest and the NRHyA Art & Photo Contest will also be held at the Derby and you don't want to miss out!

Good luck everyone with their show season,

Ashton Knerr

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