

2026 AQHA-IEA OUTSTANDING LEADER SCHOLARSHIP

The **AQHA-IEA Outstanding Leader Scholarship** is sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Youth Association and recognizes IEA /AQHYA members who have shown outstanding leadership qualities and a commitment to participation in one or both organizations. **Applications will be submitted via a Google Form found on the IEA website under RIDER OPPORTUNITIES.** IEA recommends gathering all required documentation prior to filling out the online form.
(Proof of GPA, Letter of Recommendation, and 90-second video link.)

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION (*including all additional documents*) is
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 by 11:59pm EASTERN Standard Time

APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS and REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicants must be a current member in good standing with IEA.
2. Applicants must be a current member in good standing with AQHYA.
(*If you are not already a member of AQHYA, you may use the discount promo code - IEA - to receive a 20% discount on AQHYA membership.*) Proof of AQHYA membership number will be required in the Google Form.
3. Applicants must be in 10th - 12th grade (Sophomore, Junior or Senior) at the time of application deadline.
4. Applicants must have been an active member of IEA for a minimum of two IEA seasons.
(*Active members are those who have participated in a minimum of two IEA regular season shows per IEA season.*)
5. Applicants must have a **minimum 3.0 GPA or higher** and must submit proof of GPA through transcript, grade card or similar documentation.
6. Applicants may participate in one or more of the IEA disciplines - Hunt Seat, Western or Dressage and may ride in any class division (JV Beginner, JV Novice, Varsity Intermediate, or Varsity Open).
7. Applicants must submit a 90-second video expressing how your participation in IEA and/or AQHYA has prepared you for a leadership role as an adult. Phone videos are perfectly acceptable and should have clear audio and video quality. A link to your video must be provided in the Google Form. We recommend uploading your video using Vimeo, YouTube, or Google Drive to create a link. Links from Social Media will **NOT** be accepted. Videos should remain 90 seconds or less to be considered. Please check that the permissions on the video will allow IEA access to view.
8. If you have difficulty uploading documents or your video link in the Google Form, you may submit it separately via email to scholarships@rideiea.org
All documents must be clearly marked indicating that they are for the AQHA IEA Outstanding Leader Scholarship Application and must be received by the May 15, 2026 deadline.

Questions about this application may be directed to:
Kathy Dando, Resource Development Director at scholarships@rideiea.org.