

Top Awards Won by Local Youth at National Saddlebred Conference



A group of 22 from the Tall Tails Youth Club, based at Executive Farms of Grand Blanc, traveled to Lexington, KY for the annual Saddlebred Youth Conference February 18th-20th. Friday night all attended a pizza party and round table seminars on careers with horses, given by college personnel, show-ring managers and several trainers. Afterwards, group skill-building games and activities wrapped up the evening. Saturday the members received Academy Awards at a special breakfast, then toured private Saddlebred training and show barns around Simpsonville, KY. At lunch, held at the famous Claudia Sanders Dinner House (founder of KFC), the members received several individual awards, and the Tall Tails Youth Club received the ***Outstanding Achievement in Membership Award***. On Sunday, the group went to the Kentucky Horse Park and toured the newly renovated Saddlebred Museum.

Individual Academy Award Medals: Master Gold Medals to **Alexis Fenger** and **Michaela Kratofil**; Master Silver Medal to **Maggie McElroy**; Bronze Master Medal to **Carmen Gonzalez**; Silver Academy Medals to **Drew Mallery**, **Camryn Mallery**, **Stephanie Steele**, and **Camryn Silverton**; Bronze Academy Medal to **Rachel Scibilia**. These Academy Awards are earned with points gained from placing in horse shows in the Summer and Winter Academy Show Program. The Master Medals have additional requirements that must be fulfilled; after earning all three Academy Medals in the previous three years, points count toward activities such as volunteering at events, assisting with summer camp, participating in junior judging, etc.

These members swept the **Showmanship in Halter Regional Champions** category: 1st to **Alexis Fenger**; 2nd to **Maggie McElroy**; 3rd to **Michaela Kratofil**; 4th to **Nicole Rodriguez**; 5th to **Rachel Scibilia**; 6th to **Karleigh Pluta**.

National High-Point Showmanship Champion: Alexis Fenger.

Congratulations to all of these hard working youth! Tall Tails Youth Club is based at Executive Farms in Grand Blanc, MI. Members attend monthly meetings to learn about horses. Topics such as health, safety, management and riding are covered. They also attend demonstrations, badge workshops, perform community service by volunteering time at area farms such as rescue farms and therapeutic riding centers. The group also fund raises at local shows, festivals and expos in order to make donations to these and other programs. New members are always welcome and don't need to own a horse!



Academy Award Winners from left to right: Alexis Fenger, Michaela Kratofil, Megan Reilly, Carmen Gonzalez, Camryn Mallery, Drew Mallery, and Monica Werbanowski.



Tall Tails Club Award Winners –
Back row: Drew Mallery, MacKenzie Sliper, Megan Reilly, Michaela Kratofil, Heather Reilly, Monica Werbanowski.
Middle row: Karleigh Pluta, Nicole Rodriguez, Camryn Mallery, Alexis Fenger, Bryauna Kerr.
Front row: Trainer Jodi Higdon, Carmen Gonzalez, Jordan Gonzalez.