



## **LAHJA Horsemastership Scholarship**

### **2025 Competition Information**

### **\$5,000 Overall Scholarship**

### **\$1,000 Knowledge Phase Only**

### **Scholarship Sponsored by Abigail Stellar**

The LAHJA Horsemastership Competition encourages and rewards young riders 21 and under to develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of hunter/jumper sport, their equine partners, and general horsemanship. Each year LAHJA awards \$5,000 worth of college scholarships to the top three overall finishers, with \$2,500 awarded to first, \$1,500 to second, and \$1,000 to third. New, for 2024 is a second scholarship opportunity for junior members (17 and under) competing only in the Knowledge Phase.

Overall competitors must be 21 or under and current members of LAHJA. Participants may compete for as many years as they remain eligible. Any scholarship money earned will be paid out upon proof of enrollment in an accredited college, university, or vocational program.

We have revised the competition to consist of two phases, a Knowledge Phase and a Riding Phase. The Knowledge Phase will be held at a designated LAHJA horse show during the fall. The Riding Phase requires competitors to submit a video from any jumping round at a current year competition, which will be judged on equitation.

#### **Knowledge Phase**

This phase will count 70% toward each competitor's overall score.

The Knowledge Phase will be held during a designated LAHJA show during the fall of each year and will take about 20-30 minutes to complete. Competitors will be tested on general stable management practices and activities, general horsemanship knowledge, and familiarity with USEF hunter, jumper, and equitation rules.

Examples of activities include:

- Identification of feed, bits, and "mystery" substances.
- Put a bridle together.
- Recognize conformation traits, markings, parts of the horse.
- Basic horse health and common diseases.

#### **Riding Phase**

This phase will count 30% toward each competitor's overall score.

By November 15, submit a video from a jumping round at a horse show during the current competition year. The competitor may use a round from a hunter class, equitation class, or jumper class. The round will be judged as either a hunter seat or jumping seat equitation round based on the class type the competitor selects. The jumping round must be a minimum of cross rails with eight fences and cantering.

The video must be posted on You Tube by November 15. The competitor must submit a statement to LAHJA stating the date and name of the show, the name of the class, as well as listing which divisions and sections the competitor competes in.

### **Scoring**

The Knowledge Phase will be worth 100 points and 70% of that score will count toward the overall standings. The Riding Phase will also be worth 100 points and 30% of that score will count toward the overall standings. Two judges will judge and score the Riding Phase. At least one of the judges will be a USEF R Equitation judge and the other will be an experienced professional.

The two scores will be added together and the competitor with the highest combined score will be declared the winner, with the rest of the participants ranked in order of score, high to low. In case of a tie, the Knowledge Phase score will serve as the tiebreaker.

### **Study Materials**

The Knowledge Phase will be based on material in the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Study Guide and the US Pony Club manuals. However, contestants are encouraged to utilize a broad range of sources and materials to develop comprehensive knowledge.

### **Awards**

The results of the competition will be kept secret until presented at the annual LAHJA Awards Banquet. Competitors are strongly encouraged to attend the awards ceremony and presentation.

LAHJA will present the following awards:

- Overall Champion: \$2,500 scholarship, champion ribbon, presentation of perpetual trophy, and other awards as LAHJA may bestow.
- Overall Reserve Champion: \$1,500 scholarship, reserve champion ribbons, and other awards as LAHJA may bestow.
- Third Overall: \$1,000 scholarship, reserve champion ribbons, and other awards as LAHJA may bestow.
- Overall High Score Knowledge Phase: presentation of perpetual trophy and ribbon.
- Overall High Score Riding Phase: presentation of perpetual trophy and ribbon.
- Overall High Score 12 & Under: presentation of perpetual trophy and ribbon.
- All participants: certificate and/or ribbon.
- Knowledge Phase top three will be presented with ribbons and scholarships valued at \$500, \$300, and \$200.

The scholarship funds are kept in a designated LAHJA account and will be distributed to the recipient upon proof of enrollment at an accredited college, university, or vocational school. If the recipient does not enroll in an accredited school by the age of 21, the funds will be forfeited and kept by LAHJA to use for future scholarships.

### **Registration**

Participants must be current LAHJA members and must complete a registration form. There is no additional fee to participate. Registration must be completed by the date of the Knowledge Phase.

**For more information, please contact [info@lahja.org](mailto:info@lahja.org) or 818.840.9337.**