

BLAZING THE TRAIL FOR



**YEARS**  
2009 NARHA NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
& ANNUAL MEETING  
FORT WORTH, TX • NOVEMBER 18-21

## 2009 NARHA Youth Equestrian of the Year Recognition Award Nomination Information

All participants at NARHA centers are unique and deserve recognition. But every once in a while a youth equestrian comes along that is simply outstanding. She may be a star at horse show competitions, or he may still be relying on two sidewalkers and a horse leader to get around the area at a walk. But whenever this child appears the hearts and spirits of everyone are transformed. Who do you have that deserves recognition as NARHA's 2008 Youth Equestrian of the Year?

This year NARHA will award an individual membership to the NARHA 2008 Youth Equestrian of the Year. Your nominees don't need to be a NARHA member or join. It is our honor to recognize this individual by welcoming him or her into the community that appreciates the power of the horse to change lives. And of course, we hope he or she will be able to join us at the 2009 NARHA National Conference and Annual Meeting Awards banquet on Saturday, November 21.

### Join us in recognizing the 2008 Youth Equestrian of the Year!



"I am more than cancer!" Those were the words and the philosophy of Anthony Fusaro, our courageous Youth Equestrian of the year who rode at the Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center in Orinda, California.

Anthony had an amazing ability to face down adversity. He arrived at the Xenophon center in a wheelchair, bringing a great smile, a wonderful sense humor and a life expectancy of six months. He progressed from wheelchair to cane and from surcingle to saddle and independent riding. When he was strong, he groomed, tacked, led and mounted independently. When his health permitted, he gave presentations about the benefits of riding and Anthony could really draw his listeners in. He inspired his doctors and nurses as well as the students, volunteers and instructors at the center that meant so much to him.

During the last year of his life, Anthony may have been fighting terminal illness, but his spirit was unwavering. He worked on his Eagle Scout Project, which he called HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Endure) and even when he was once again getting around in a wheelchair, he hoped to ride again. He was one amazing individual.

Anthony Fusaro of Albany, California, passed away on May 20, 2008. We honor his life remembering how truly special he was- remembering how positive and strong he was through adversity- and most of all remembering how his courageous spirit and love of life shined through his eyes and great smile.

Youth Equestrian of the Year Award Criteria (age 13 to 18):

- The nominee must be at least 13 years old and no older than 18 by January 1, 2009.
- The nominee must participate in an equestrian activity at a NARHA center in good standing and must have a disability.
- The nominee does not need to ride independently.
- Please submit two (2) letters of nomination. Letters should not exceed 500 words and should be double-spaced and postmarked by June 15, 2009.
- Nominations must be received via email no later than June 15, 2009.
- Please do not send any photographs at this time. The NARHA office will contact you if photos are needed.