

AYA

2021-2022

**Appaloosa Youth Association
Board of Directors Candidates**

Territory I

Shelby Aldinger

Emma Shierk

Territory II

Open for 1 write in

Territory III

Maisen Gores

Anthony Mahloch

Territory IV

Taylor Silkert

Territory V

Stephanie Strachar

Open for 1 write in

Territory VI

Olivia Johnson

Emily Snippert

Go to <http://sub.appaloosa.com/web/yvot010.aspx> and enter your membership number and last name to cast your votes. You may only vote once prior to the deadline.



Shelby Aldinger

Ramsey, MI
Territory I

Statement of Qualification:

Hello, My name is Shelby Aldinger, and I am running for Appaloosa Youth Association, board of directors for Territory I. My Appaloosa Calamity Jane and I have been able to grow and learn together. She taught me that I can accomplish anything with hard work and perseverance. This confidence has helped me inside and out of the arena. She has given me the self-assurance to be an active participant on the Anoka County 4H Horse Committee as Youth Secretary; Youth advisor for the horse judging team; and the Youth Leader on my drill team.

Each one of my volunteer positions has brought me fulfillment, experience, and knowledge. From this I have been able to accomplish many things. One of these things is a Reserve Grand Champion finish in the horse judging at the 2020 American Paint Horse Association World Championship Show. Additionally, Grand Champion distinction for my speech on horse digestion and the Beginning Leadership Award. For these reasons I am qualified to serve on the Appaloosa Youth Association Board of Directors Territory I.

Statement of Purpose:

While serving on the Board of Directors I plan to increase Appaloosa breed recognition, encourage youth participation in the Appaloosa Youth Association, and emphasize the breeds depth of heritage. I will accomplish this by partnering with similar organizations to increase breed understanding through education. Similarly, I will encourage youth participation in the organization by connecting with youth at horse shows as an Appaloosa breed ambassador. Broadening the youth heritage through education of the Appaloosa as a breed is a passion of mine. Breed recognition, growth in youth participation, and heritage will be my primary purposes while serving on the Board of Directors.

In addition to growth of the Appaloosa Youth Association, there is also personal development that I would like to accomplish with this role. I would like to expand my knowledge of the horse industry, the Appaloosa breed, and grow my passion for leadership. Increasing my expertise for the Appaloosa breed and learning from others in the horse industry will provide a better understanding of the trade to help me choose what I want to do when I get older. Lastly, I would like to broaden my leadership experience by learning and teaching others.



Emma Shierk

Madras, OR
Territory I

Statement of Qualifications:

I believe I'm qualified to be an AYA director, because I have been active in assisting at ApHC breed shows since I was very young, this past year I was able to show a wonderful ApHC gelding that I lease, I look forward to showing him again at all our regional shows in 2021. I also assisted at the ANCER trail ride when it was located in Oregon a few years ago. Additionally, I am an active member of two of my state's regional Appaloosa clubs. I am currently the 2020-2021 queen for the Oregon Trail Appaloosa Horse club, you will find me out at many events and rodeos representing our wonderful breed. The opportunity to join the AYA Board of Directors would provide me with a chance to help promote Appaloosa's to youth in our arena. I understand how critical it is to encourage more youth to join as they are the future of the horse industry and the Appaloosa breed. It would be my great honor to serve the Appaloosa Youth Association and the ApHC in this capacity.

Statement of Purpose:

My goal as serving as a AYA director is to help introduce our wonderful and versatile Appaloosa horses to the youth in my Territory. I would also like to encourage camaraderie amongst the current active youth in territory 1. I hope to encourage new youth that I encounter to become active members of the ApHC. Lastly, I would hope that the work I would do in this role would add betterment of the ApHC.



Maisen Gores

Almena, WI
Territory III

Statement of Qualification:

As a second term runner, I believe that my experience over the last two years will truly benefit me for the upcoming term. Now that I have the experience, I am more prepared for my role as the Territory III director. I am now 17 and have been active in the youth program for seven years. I have attended the Youth World Show since I was a lead liner and these past two years I have helped organize and plan a lot of the activities for the show. As a very extroverted person, I can work well with others, which is a crucial skill when it comes to being on the board. These are just a few of many qualifications that I will bring to the association.

Statement of Purpose:

I have been a member of the Appaloosa Youth Association for as long as I can remember. This will be my second term and I really believe that I can truly help improve the youth program. During these next two years my main focus will be youth involvement not only on the national level, but on the regional level as well. With some advertisement of the youth classes, activities, or contests at regional shows I think we could really boost our numbers. It can be intimidating, especially as a younger member, to want to participate in youth activities. I hope that in my next two years I can make connections with other youth and encourage their involvement. Another major goal I have is to set up more scholarships, similar to paints, for youth classes. Education is something that should also be prioritized. My last priority for my term is to spread the word about the youth program. Whether it is through social media, word of mouth, or putting a few ads out, I think if more people knew what is going on ahead of time it would help our program. With enough hard work I think that I could truly benefit the youth program for the better.



Anthony Mahloch

Molone, WI
Territory III

Statement of Qualifications:

I believe that I can take on the procedures of being an AYA member. I believe I also have plenty of qualifications from working with groups due to me being FFA, 4-H, part of the Wisconsin Appaloosa Club, as well as assisting on the AYA board for 2020. Also, I want to do my best for this club because I love the breed and love the history it holds. I want to help in any way I can.

Statement of Purpose:

My ideas for the Appaloosa Youth Association is to do what we can to everyone together and promote our breed. We need to rebuild our club, by helping to market our breed along with showing people we are family-oriented. If we create fun activities at the shows, we can stimulate interest in the club. I personally feel if we set our goals to grow our club, we can do this together as a youth board.



Taylor Silkert

Orange Park, FL
Territory IV

Statement of Qualification:

With my experience within the Appaloosa Horse Club for over 5 years, I believe I am qualified to be a part of the next Appaloosa Youth Association Board of Directors, representing Territory 4. Aside from competing within the Appaloosa Horse Club, I have represented the breed well on a regular basis in multi-breed shows such as the 4-H club and our local hunter jumper circuit here in Jacksonville. I volunteer my time at the stable I train at, Windermere Equestrian Center, in order to bring that same love of the appaloosa breed that we all share to the children in my community through running youth horse judging clinics, summer camps, and more!

Statement of Purpose:

With being granted the honor of the Territory 4 representative, I will use my voice and actions to inspire inclusivity and consistent membership of our youth. Through local activities, instilling traditions, and growing our social media, I believe we can grow our club to outstanding numbers! I will be affirmative in my mission to grow the passion we all share, the appaloosa.



Stephanie Strachar

Harrington, DE
Territory V

Statement of Qualification:

I believe I am qualified to hold the office of an AYA director because I love the Appaloosa Breed so much! My first horse is an Appaloosa and he has taught me many things about this special breed. So, because of that I want to tell more people about this amazing breed and how much my two horses have taught me. My trainer has also helped me become more successful in my life, but especially with my horses, and for that I am very thankful for him! I am honored to be considered for a position on the AYA board and feel my experiences with showing my Appaloosas has prepared me for the job.

Statement of Purpose:

I would like to achieve during my term if elected to the board would be to inform more people about how diverse and wonderful the Appaloosa breed is. I would also want to help the Appaloosa club recruit more people to the breed so we can be known better throughout the world. I feel that not many people know about how unique, loving, and diverse this colorful breed is. Another plan I would like to achieve during my term is to show that I don't just ride and show my horses but I excel in all things in my life because of skills, knowledge, and confidence I have gained over the years with my Appaloosas!



Olivia Johnson

Norwell, MA

Territory VI

Statement of Qualifications:

I am Olivia Johnson and I am running to be the Territory 6 Representative. For the past two years I have served on the AYA Board of Directors and I am hoping to continue with another term. I have competed at Appaloosa Regional and World Shows since I was 10 and under, so I understand what being a youth in this association is like and what things I have to continue to look forward to seeing at the shows. Currently I am a freshman at Villanova University and I serve on many clubs, so I know the value of teamwork and different strategies of raising money whilst socially distanced, during the unprecedented time in history. Also in high school, I was the Vice President of my class and learned the time, commitment, and work ethic necessary to serve on a board, and also learned how to communicate with my peers.

Statement of Purpose:

In serving as the Territory 6 representative, I am hoping to share my love of the Appaloosa industry. I have made many friendships through the horse club that I am looking forward to continue to grow and also help out youth make those friendships. I think through social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook youth can interact with their fellow riders, learn more about who they are competing against, and also they themselves can become more involved in the Appaloosa industry. By posting about the exceptional experiences many of our youth have had, doing live Q&A's with members of the Board of Directors, having youth spotlights, and highlighting the achievements of my exceptionally talented peers I am hoping that we can make everyone more excited about the future of the Appaloosa Industry. These are also just a handful of ways we can highlight the AYA. With the youth spread out around the country/ world having social media platforms where youth can learn more about their peers and see shows in different parts of the country our club can become a more tight-knit community. In closing I would be most excited to serve on the Board of Directors for my last youth year and hope to make every youth's experience as memorable as it was for me.



Emily Snippet

Wattsburg, PA
Territory VI

Statement of Qualifications:

As an active AYA member, I want to help promote the ApHC and make it a comfortable place for everyone to be. When I first started showing my Appaloosa on the regional circuit, there were so many people who made me feel more than welcome. I want to give that back by helping other members find their niche in the Appaloosa Horse Club. My goal is to get kids more involved and to communicate with each other in order to make shows and events lifelong memories.

I also plan to get the adults involved, to help make the Appaloosa breed one tight community. By going to shows throughout my territory, I can help make connections across different clubs. I want to incorporate special games or events for kids and adults to participate in that use communication and teamwork, to help not just at the shows but everyday life. I feel one of the biggest problems my generation has is communication. They are used to just staying in their "groups" and not branching out to other people. My purpose as an AYA Director would be to get people to feel welcome and interact with each other.

Statement of Qualifications:

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