



Dear SNHSA members, Here are several reminders for fast approaching deadlines



RICKY EVANS SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY Nominations are due 12/31/2023

In 2014, SNHSA started a tradition of recognizing an individual, junior, amateur or professional who exemplifies high-quality horsemanship, sportsmanship and integrity in our sport. The second honoree was Shelley Evans and to carry forward the legacy, she donated this perpetual trophy in 2016. In 2018, the SNHSA Board of Directors renamed the trophy to honor Shelley Evans and her beloved horse, Ricky, who died in 2018.

Any SNHSA member may nominate a fellow member for consideration of the trophy by submitting a nomination application by Dec. 31.

As part of your nomination, please make sure you address the questions below when telling us why you are nominating who you are.

- #1: Who are you nominating?
- #2: Why do you feel that your nominee is worthy of the sportsmanship award?
- #3: Please describe at least one example of when this person displayed the characteristics of a great sportsman.
- #4: Please describe at least one example of when this person displayed integrity.
- #5: Please describe at least one example of when this person displayed high-quality horsemanship.
- #6: Please describe any of the nominee's community volunteerism that you are aware of.



MEMORABLE MASTERS Nominations are due 12/31/2023

Every rider can remember their first special lesson horse. The one that saved you over and over and tirelessly forgave each mistake you made. The riders of AJA Equine started the perpetual trophy in 2022 to commemorate a special horse, Buddies Surprise, who, for most of them, was their first introduction to horses and took care of them in their first lessons. Each year, this new perpetual trophy will commemorate Surprise's legacy and will be awarded to another special horse that embodies their fellow peers to achieve their goals during the season.

Surprise touched the hearts of every rider, trainer, and community member who met him. Surprise embodied the definition of a unicorn, with a stunning mane and tail to match. The community mourned, alongside his home barn, Ironwood Events Center, when he passed in 2021. Surprise was an impeccable ambassador for the American Bashkir Curly breed with his gentleness, patience and ability to make a horse-lover out of anyone who had the honor of interacting with him. His steady disposition provided riders of all ages and experience levels to achieve their goals; ranging from standing like a statue as eager kids pick hooves for the first time, to boldly jumping ditches and coops with a rider's first time in cross country. Surprise personified grace through all that he did and equally extended grace to every rider who learned a new skill because of his patient nature.

Did you have a special lesson horse that taught you or others your first lessons? Please submit your nomination of a special lesson horse that we can commemorate this year and tell us why you think this horse embodies the legacy that began with Buddies Surprise.

Please send nominations to Susan at susanhowe@gmail.com by Dec. 31, 2023.

We can't wait to hear your story!

