

Region XII Youth News!

Hey everyone!

My name is Jacklyn Abernathy and I'm honored and excited to serve as your Region 12 Youth Director this year.

I am 17 years old and am currently a junior in high school in Franklin, Tennessee. I run cross-country, sing in the chamber choir, do mock trial, and volunteer about 100 hours a year. I spend most of my scant free time researching my horses, and, as a result, probably know way more about pedigrees than is healthy for any 17 year old.

I live on Brookhill Farm (www.brookhillfarm.com), a nearly 40-acre farm outside of Nashville, where my parents breed Straight Egyptian Arabians. I own and ride a 16 hand purebred gelding, Flash Fire SC. "Vince" has taught me the ins and outs of riding and showing a true "show horse," and we now show hunter pleasure, hunt seat equitation, and sport horse in hand. Although I love the glamour and glitz of showing, my main involvement comes in just spending time helping around the breeding and training facilities—nothing makes me happier than seeing a foal I helped create and raise go on to have a successful career in halter, performance, and/or production.

Last November, I attended AHA Convention as a member of the Youth Board and got to meet many new people from all over the country and learned about a lot of programs we can do our region. I encourage all of you to look into joining a committee—it's a great way to make your voice heard on the national level and any AHYA member can join! You can read about the various committees and learn how to join at <http://arabianhorses.org/youth/committees/default.asp>. The AHYA Board also started planning Youth Convention 2014, which will be held on Friday, July 18. Region 12 will need youth delegates for Convention, so if you're already planning on going to Nationals, why not spend one day learning more about how AHYA functions and electing next year's executive board? Please email me if you're interested!

This year, I would really like to improve youth participation in Region 12. Look for a Region 12 Youth Facebook page in the coming weeks and please feel free to contact me any time at j3abernathy@gmail.com. I would love to see more youth meetings and activities at Class A shows and would be happy to talk to anyone about starting such programs at any Class A show. One more way to get involved is to create a Regional Youth Team. In this program, you make a team of up to five of your friends from Region 12 and record your show points from throughout the year. It's a fun way to compete with your friends from other regions and it only costs \$10/team! The deadline is May 1, and you can read more at <http://www.arabianhorses.org/youth/contests/rytt.asp>. I'm so excited to get youth activities rolling throughout our region this year!

Hoping to talk to you soon!

Jacklyn Abernathy



The AHYA Youth Board at Convention