

Annual Provincial Award Category Criteria

Outstanding Instructor/Coach of the Year

The recipient of this award is a current certified Equestrian Canada National Certified Coach (NCCP) or instructor. This individual possesses and demonstrates exceptional mentorship skills with their students, leading by example and teaching in a positive and informative light. They embrace continuing education with great importance and empower others to learn and grow in a safe manner. This individual is ethical in all matters and highly regards humane treatment of their equine partners at all times. They continuously strive for what is best for horse and rider and value the opinions and input of others. They will have focus on the complete development of their athletes (both horse and rider) at all times. Nominees are recognized for their contribution to the sport as an instructor/coach, whether their students are active in competitive sport, or are recreational participants.

Sportsmanship Excellence Award

This individual's character best exemplifies the definition of sportsmanship. Their conduct and attitude are considered as benefiting participants in sport, especially fair play, courtesy, putting the horse's welfare first, determined spirit and graciousness in victory or defeat. The individual will demonstrate a positive attitude, and support fellow riders. They show respect to officials and opposing teams, even when faced with challenging outcomes. They demonstrate cooperation and respect in dealing with their instructor/coach. This recipient is committed to "doing what is right". They are selfless and committed to positive overall performance whether individually or as part of a team.

Outstanding Athlete/Rider of the Year

This individual exhibits an unwavering ambition, positive attitude and determination towards their activity. They set personal goals and strive hard to achieve them, taking setbacks in stride. They spend time with their equine partners and show a well-rounded interest in the daily care and responsibility of riding and/or owning an equine. They treat others including their equine partner with the utmost respect and love. This individual is committed, but most importantly takes the time to enjoy their activity. They exhibit a high level of commitment to both practice and show schedule. This award recognizes outstanding athletic performance by an athlete involved in competition.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

This individual is incredible to work with as they exude energy and approach tasks with enthusiasm, professionalism and drive. They are reliable; hold a positive attitude, show integrity, flexibility and commitment. This individual can bring life into even the most mundane of tasks. The individual volunteers their time to improve and bring value to the industry. This award is designed to honour an individual who has contributed selflessly at an extraordinary level of dedication. The recipient does not necessarily need to be involved with equines on a regular basis, but rather may have contributed a significant impact to the equestrian community.

Outstanding Equine Support Personnel of the Year

This individual has consistently demonstrated their dedication to the support of equine/human athletes alike and in the care and welfare of equines in general. They are vital to the success of a stable (facility) and/or horse & rider; they are reliable, supportive, professional, positive and helpful and well versed in their position. They display the utmost respect for keeping equines healthy and happy at all times. They are proactive, knowledgeable and speak “horse”. They are a joy to have around the barn and/or competition; without this individual, the facility would not run the same. Recipients in this category may hold positions such as: groom, stable-hand, farrier, massage therapist, veterinarian etc. They are being recognized for their contributions to the overall success of the community by demonstrating extraordinary horsemanship skills.

Outstanding Stable/Facility of the Year

The recipient of this award is a current stable/facility member of the AEF. They uphold the highest standard of horse care at all times in and around their property. Safety is always the number one priority in regards to horse and rider. Maintenance and upkeep of the stable/facility also remains a high priority. They treat their clients with the utmost respect and convey information in a clear and appropriate manner. They employ knowledgeable staff and foster a positive environment. They practice fair business ethics, ideal risk management protocols and exemplify best practices for riding and horse care. Their property is clean and safe for both horse and rider; biosecurity is a priority. The recipient of this award is being recognized for demonstrating excellence in horse welfare, and providing an outstanding environment.

Outstanding Horse of the Year

This award is a designation given to an equine (horse, pony, donkey, mule, etc.), regardless of age, who has achieved something extraordinary within their respective discipline/activity, or rather whom has made a significant or shining impact on the equine community by doing something “above and beyond” the normal scope of duty, or who has overcome all odds in a particular situation. The recipient does not necessarily need to be involved in competition, perhaps a school horse who has made an impact on many riders’ lives in a special way, an equine who has accomplished an incredible goal, who has overcome outstanding odds, who did something to stand out from other equines, or perhaps achieved top results. The equine must currently be living in Alberta, at time of nomination. For this award category, be sure to identify the current owner of the equine being nominated as well as provide their contact information.

Above and Beyond Excellence Award

This individual demonstrates outstanding performance and has made, or continues to make a significant contribution that benefits the industry. They are considered an exceptional member of the equine community and demonstrate a high level of commitment, initiative, cooperation and dedication that reinforces the values of the AEF. The recipient of this award demonstrates an attitude of excellence, teamwork, and goes Above and Beyond the expectations of others. The recipient does not necessarily need to be involved with horses on a regular basis, but may have contributed a significant impact to the equestrian community in Alberta.