



## 2026 PROGRAM RULES

### 1. PURPOSE

This UPHA program is designed to encourage, challenge, and reward UPHA youth members who:

- Compete in equestrian competitions in the American Saddlebred, Arabian, Half-Arabian, Morgan, National Show Horse, Hackney Pony, Saddle Seat Equitation, or Academy Division (includes Exceptional classes).
- Commit to helping others through hands-on community service and fundraising for approved charities.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

- UPHA membership required.
- Age 21 or under as of December 1 of the current competition year.
- Compete in equestrian competitions in the American Saddlebred, Arabian, Half-Arabian, Morgan, National Show Horse, Hackney Pony, Saddle Seat Equitation, or Academy Division (includes Exceptional classes).

### 3. REQUIREMENTS

- Submit the completed application form to the UPHA office.
- See website for information on awards, prizes, and scholarship requirements.
- Any amount participants raise will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital unless an additional charity has been approved. The total amount raised will then be split 50/50 between the charities.
- All payments must be made payable to UPHA Foundation, Inc.
- Tax Deductibility: UPHA Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted by law.
- No person is permitted to use the UPHA Ribbons of Service logo or name in conjunction with any fundraising activity unless that person has been approved for participation in the current year program by UPHA.

### 4. DEADLINES FOR FUNDRAISING

- Participants may start collecting pledges and funds on November 1, 2025, for the 2026 program year.
- All collected funds should be sent to UPHA by the 30th day of each month, with the final remittance reaching UPHA by October 31. Funds sent in monthly will qualify for awards on the tiered structure.
- It is the participants' responsibility to collect and forward all funds and forms to UPHA by October 31, to be eligible for awards, prizes, and scholarships.

- No funds will be credited to a participant if postmarked on November 1 or later, but these funds will be forwarded to appropriate charitable organizations.

## 5. DEADLINES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Participants may start logging hours on November 1, 2024, for the 2026 program year.
- The Community Service Hours Log should be sent to UPHA by the 30th day of each month, with the final submission reaching UPHA by October 31. Hours submitted monthly will qualify for awards on the tiered structure.
- Community service is defined as “that a person performs for the benefit of his or her local community on an unpaid, volunteer basis.” Please see the community service guide for additional information regarding eligible and ineligible hours.
- UPHA reserves the right to disqualify any hour(s) of community service that do not meet eligibility, are deemed improper, inappropriate, or inconsistent with the purpose of the program.

## 6. CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is the recognized charity of the UPHA Ribbons of Service program.
- Participants are welcome to choose an additional charitable organization to raise funds for, provided that the organization meets the following criteria:
  - a. Must be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in the United States.
  - b. Should be in good standing with the IRS. This can be verified by using GuideStar or a similar website to check the organization's status.
  - c. Must have received approval as a 501(c)(3) from the IRS for at least one year.
  - d. Must provide a copy of the IRS Letter of Determination.
  - e. Finally, participants must explain why they have chosen this charity to raise funds.
- The decision of the UPHA Ribbons of Service Committee is final.
- If an additional charity is approved, funds raised by participants will be split 50/50 between the approved charity and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
- It is the participant’s responsibility to let donors know that if they are raising money for an additional charity, the donation will be split 50/50 between St. Jude and the other charity.

## 7. SCHOLARSHIPS

- Participants must have reached at least the Platinum level by raising a minimum of \$1,000 in donations and completed at least 10 hours of Community Service to be eligible for scholarships.
- Scholarships are awarded to the participant who raises the most funds or completes the most community service hours, according to the specific scholarship criteria.
- **NEW IN 2026:** Participants can only receive one scholarship per program year. If a participant qualifies for multiple scholarships, they will be awarded the one with the highest dollar amount, and the remaining scholarship will be awarded to the next most qualified participant in that category.

## **8. REVISION OF RULES.**

If UPHA finds that any revision of the UPHA Ribbons of Service Rules is necessary, enrolled participants will be promptly notified.

## **9. DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

Any decision by the UPHA Executive Board of Directors regarding revision, interpretation, or application of the UPHA Ribbons of Service program rules shall be final.