

The NRHyA's Varsity Reining Club

By Taylor Sturm

The Varsity Reining Club was created to engage NRHA's youth members in local and national activities. It offers youth the opportunity to be involved in the association and develop valuable life skills along the way; these skills prepare them to contribute to our society. It has two age levels, Varsity (14-18), and Jr. Varsity (13 and Under).

Participants of VRC are awarded points as they complete and submit activities designated on the program's website. These points are separate from the NRHA youth competition points. The VRC has three activity categories. Category 1 is helping out; this includes fundraising, community service, and pitching in at shows (like working the gate, etc.) Category 2 is creativity. Photography, creative writing, and arts and crafts are in this category. Category 3 is let others know. A youth can acquire points by holding or attending a meeting, educating a group of non-reiners about the sport, and writing a news style article about something that is happening in their region or affiliate.

As the youth acquire points, they are awarded with prizes. These prizes include t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and stalls at the 2009 NRHA Derby and Futurity! At the end of the year, the youth who are most active in the program receive scholarship money. Cash is awarded to the top five participants. First place receives \$500 and incrementally going down in \$100 per place where fifth place is awarded \$100.

The VRC is going into its third year. 2009 is the first year that the VRC is using the format described above. Last year's WSRHA participants were: Platinum Level- Samantha Belcher, Christi Gordon, Caeden Quist, Cohen Quist, Reilly Quist. Gold Level- Shanae Stratton.

For more information on the VRC, please visit vrc.nrhya.com.