



# 2026 CHA Horse of the Year Nomination

**Entries are due August 31, 2026**

The **CHA Horse of the Year** award recognizes an exceptional equine that contributes significantly to a CHA program. While CHA may update criteria from year to year, the general **criteria for nominating a horse** include:

**Affiliation:**

The horse must be used in a CHA program member or by a CHA certified instructor.

**Disposition and Reliability:**

The horse should have a calm, consistent, and safe temperament. It must be dependable and suitable for riders of varying skill levels.

**Versatility:**

The horse should be able to participate in a variety of riding disciplines or activities, such as English, Western, trail riding, or therapeutic riding.

**Positive Impact:**

The horse must have made a significant, positive difference in the lives of students or riders. This could include helping beginners gain confidence or supporting riders with special needs.

**Length of Service:**

Preference may be given to horses with a long-standing history of service within the program.

**Supporting Materials Requested:**

- Nominated Horse's description including:
  - Stable & Registered Name
  - Breed/ Age / Height
  - Owner & program name
- Compelling stories or testimonials from instructors & students that illustrate why the horse is special or deserving of the award.
- Clear photos of the horse (front/side/back views), and photos or videos in action.

**Email supporting materials as outlined above to office@CHA.horse with "Instructor of the Year" in the subject line.**

**All materials must be contained in one file folder attachment. *We recommend using Google Docs.***

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