



# 2026 CHA Instructor of the Year Nomination

**Entries are due August 31, 2026.**

The **Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)** typically considers several key criteria when evaluating nominees for **Instructor of the Year**. While exact criteria may vary slightly by year or region, the following are commonly included:

## 1. CHA Certification and Involvement

- Must be a current CHA certified instructor in good standing.
- Active participation in CHA programs, events, and continued education.
- Demonstrates commitment to CHA's mission: *"Changing lives through safe experiences with horses."*

## 2. Excellence in Instruction

- Provides high-quality, safe, and effective horsemanship instruction.
- Designs their lessons to the needs of diverse students (age, experience level, ability).
- Uses CHA-recommended best practices and industry standards.

## 3. Professionalism and Leadership

- Maintains a professional demeanor, ethics, and positive attitude.
- Acts as a role model and mentor within the equine and CHA community.
- Promotes safety, responsibility, and horse welfare.

## 4. Impact and Student Success

- Has a demonstrable impact on students' progress, confidence, and skills.
- Inspires and motivates students through supportive instruction.
- Evidence of student achievements or testimonials may strengthen nomination.

## 5. Community Involvement and Advocacy

- Promotes horsemanship education and CHA values within the community.
- Involved in outreach, events, clinics, or programs that benefit broader audiences.

## 6. Innovation and Improvement

- Incorporates innovative teaching techniques, tools, or program development.
- Demonstrates continual professional growth and encourages others to do the same.

## **Supporting Materials Requested:**

- Nominee's contact information and short biography of their experience and excellence as a CHA certified professional.
- Additional letters of support from students, peers, or supervisors.
- Clear photos of the nominee, both in portrait and 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.***

***Entries are due August 31, 2026.***