



American Quarter Horse Foundation

MERLE WOOD HUMANITARIAN AWARD

OUR PURPOSE

The Merle Wood Humanitarian Award is designed to recognize an individual who exemplifies an ethic of meritorious kindness and benevolence in providing opportunities for all young people to be involved with the American Quarter Horse.

WOOD'S LEGACY

Merle Edward Wood was born in Valets, Kansas in 1920 and grew up knowing about hard work and the compassion of others when you need a helping hand. He once said, "I'm going to try and give back some of the things that have been given to me." This philosophy allowed him, as chairman of the AQHA Youth Activities Committee, to earnestly support our youth members. In 1975, Merle was charged with the development and fundraising responsibilities for a newly approved concept, which would provide scholarship assistance for youth members of the American Quarter Horse Association. His zealous determination to support our industry's youth members ultimately led to the conception of the American Quarter Horse Foundation and its' very first program.

CRITERIA

The Merle Wood Humanitarian Award will be presented to an individual whose outstanding voluntary service has been marked by actions or deeds that have enabled young people to experience positive opportunities and or activities involving the American Quarter Horse. A multitude of service will be considered and is not restricted to any one type of action or deed involving youth.

Individuals nominated may be living or deceased. Nominee(s) must distinguish oneself through non-compensated humanitarian endeavors.

- Nominations will remain on file for up to three selection years. Each selection year, nominators may submit additional materials in support of nominee.
- Previous recipients are not eligible to receive additional awards.
- Individuals who have received AQHA's most honored award, Hall of Fame induction, are not eligible to receive this award.
- Award is not designed to honor individuals who have supported youth activities primarily through financial contributions.
- Awards or achievements received through industry show and or racing competition(s) are not a factor in the selection process.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Nominators must prepare an application developed for the nominee, which should include the following items. **Application deadline is May 1.**

Completed Application Form

Include on the ***application (required)*** any details you may know regarding the nominee's personal information: nominee's family, occupation, AQHA activities and other civic honors received.

Letters of Support

Include a minimum of ***three reference letters (required)***. A maximum of five reference letters will be accepted for each nominee. Letters should be at least one-page in length.

- Suggested endorsers should include individuals with first-hand knowledge regarding the activities or achievements of the nominee and their involvement in humanitarian endeavors.
- Should be person(s) other than a relative who are familiar with the nominee's accomplishments.

Support Information

Include ***supplementary materials (optional)*** to enhance the nominee's award application. These items may include published works about the nominee through newspaper articles, feature stories, press releases, etc.

Achievements and or awards should be dated and listed in chronological order with the most recent submitted first. All materials should be submitted at the same time as a complete package. Supplementary materials are encouraged. Faxed applications will not be eligible for consideration. Questions or inquiries may be directed to the Foundation at (806) 378-5034 or foundation@aqha.org.

Return completed applications to:

**American Quarter Horse Foundation
Merle Wood Humanitarian Award
2601 East I-40
Amarillo, TX 79104**

AWARD PRESENTATION

Notification will be sent to nominators, nominees and recipient beginning in August. The Merle Wood Humanitarian Award is presented during the AQHA Convention. The recipient's humanitarian achievements will be highlighted in a video presentation during the induction banquet.

The recipient is presented with a commemorative bronze bust of an American Quarter Horse, designed and donated by Marrita McMillian of Gainesville, Texas. The bust immortalizes the American Quarter Horse and the humanitarian achievements of Merle Wood.

MERLE WOOD HUMANITARIAN AWARD APPLICATION

Please type or print in black or blue ink:

Nominee's Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Work: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please provide information on nominee's personal life, education, occupation and activities.

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Education/Occupation: _____

American Quarter Horse industry activities: _____

Number of years that nominee has been active in the industry: _____

Youth activities or projects supported: _____
