



# YOUTH NEWSLETTER



*morgan horse association of oregon*

*welcome!*

The Morgan Horse Association of Oregon is excited to launch our monthly newsletter specifically for youth! In each edition, we'll feature updates for and about young riders, games and show information, and our "Rider of the Month" and "Horse of the Month" profiles you won't want to miss. If you have updates you want to share, or nominations for our featured rider and horse of the month, email [mhaoyouth@gmail.com](mailto:mhaoyouth@gmail.com) and explain why your pick should be in the spotlight.

*coming soon!*

Watch upcoming newsletters for information on MHAO's new online horse show! And make sure to follow our Instagram @mhaoyouth for more exciting news and features!

*meet your youth representatives*

## GRACE MARTIN

Grace (left) has been riding Morgans for 12 years. She loves her special Morgans, Relato Del Toro, "Corey," and Altitude, "Bobbie." Grace loves Morgan horses because they have the biggest hearts and the most outgoing personalities which makes them the best teammates and friends.

## NATALIE WOODLAND

Natalie (right) has been riding Morgans for 14 years. She loves her Morgans Baccarat's Street Smart GCH, "Smartie," Springmill November Rain, "Wally," SDMF Master Illusion, "Chet," and MEM Bacardi GCH, "Chase." Natalie loves the way Morgans carry themselves, how they understand people, their personalities, and their excitement in the show ring.





# SADDLE SEAT: *Equitation*

By Grace Martin

Saddle Seat Equitation is a style of riding intended to show seamless compatibility between rider and horse. Equitation is not intended to be forced, but is intended to be graceful, useful, and efficient.

## *Hands*

Hands “should show sympathy, adaptability, and control” (USEF Rule Book). They should be up, but determined by where the horse holds its head, and should be held in an easy position.

## *Legs and Feet*

In Saddle Seat, the foot should be comfortably placed in the stirrup on the ball of the foot. The leg should be slightly bent at the knee, and in line with the rest of the body. Stirrup length should be determined by where the leg is positioned without the stirrup. Legs should not be forced, and toes should be slightly turned in or straight ahead. Heels should be down, and foot should be relaxed.

## *Seat and Overall Position*

Rider should be comfortably in the saddle, with not too much room in front or behind. The rider should sit straight with shoulders down, and looking over the horse's head.

## *Interesting Facts*

- + Only 13 riders have ever won the Saddleseat Triple Crown. Most recently, Macey Miles won in 2016, and Haley Berget won in 2018.
- + The Saddle Seat World Cup is the highest level of competition for any equitation rider.



Adult Triple Crown Winner 2018: Victoria Walz



Triple Crown Winner 2018: Haley Berget



# HUNTER: *Equitation*

By Natalie Woodland

Hunt seat equitation is the art of riding a hunter horse. Hunter horses are used for jumping or flat riding, both for practice and in the show ring. In equitation, it is important to show your skills by showing your best performance, and also horsemanship. It is not a posing competition. It is the unique ability to show the best performance of both the rider and horse.



2016 Grand National Champion Hunt Seat Eq 9: Ayva Palos

An equitation judge should be able to see an equitation rider's "tools" being used. Ideally, an equitation rider should exhibit strong legs, quiet and communicative hands. There should be a special bond between a rider and horse shown throughout the performance.



2018 World Champion Hunt Seat Eq 14-15: Emma Adams

There is power and unity in riding a horse. Hunt seat shows a horse's power, and allows the horse to express themselves.

*Fun Fact:* Merin Maggi, trainer at Maggi Stables in Gilroy, California, won her first World Championship in Hunter Pleasure 13 & Under in 2002 - Unanimously!