



**THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE**  
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**National Youth Congress and Alumni Academy of Achievement  
Inducted at 2017 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by  
USPC, Presented by County Saddlery**

**February 9, 2017 (Lexington, KY)** - Pony Club members and equine enthusiasts converged in the Camino Real Region January 25th -29th for the 2017 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC and Presented by County Saddlery. Over 600 attendees were treated to more than 60 educational workshops, presentations, and interactive learning experiences on a variety of equine topics.

Most of the fun was held in the Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. Representatives from 42 Pony Club Regions, including Alaska and Hawaii, were on hand working to improve Pony Club programming for members and future members. Attendees were treated to a variety of activities from Educational Workshops, Trade Fair, Silent Auction, Research Fair and Anatomy Room. The Workshop tracks allowed individuals to customize their experience to focus on sessions like Leadership, Parent, Veterinary and Disciplines.

Friday's sessions included honoring the inductees into the Academy of Achievement for 2017: Kathleen Carr, DVM, MS, PhD, Jennifer Lord, MD, Lisa Roskens and Sara Williams.

Many Pony Club awards were presented at the Saturday morning Meeting of the Corporation. Four clubs received 50 year awards and eleven clubs received 25 year awards. Upper Level members received special recognition as three members were awarded A-level certification plaques. The Brookfield Land Conservation Award was presented to Fox Valley Pony Club, Lake Shore Region and Bath Pony Club, Tri-State Region. The Flash Teamwork Award went to Tuck Everlasting. For more information on honored clubs and members, visit <http://blog.ponyclub.org/>.

The Saturday night Banquet and Dance were highlights for many attendees as they honored the recipients of the Founders Awards for 2016: Jan Jensen, Alex Weiss, Shelley Kincaid, and Claire Harmon. Featured speaker for the evening was two-time Eventing Olympian and Pony Club graduate, Hawley Bennett. Bennett entertained the banquet guests with stories and personal

memories from her days in Pony Club and Eventing career. More than 400 people attended the banquet and danced the night away.

It was announced that the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 24-28 at the Galt House, in Louisville, KY in the Midsouth Region.

[About Pony Club](#) - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club) was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. There are approximately 9,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Youth members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to a growing number of adults through Horsemasters membership.