

American Riding Instructors Association

2009 Annual Award Nominations

The 2009 ARIA awards will be presented at ARIA's 25th Anniversary National Riding Instructors Convention, to be held November 18-21 in Naples, Florida.

RULES:

**Award Nominations will be accepted between
January 1, 2009 and March 31, 2009.**

Nominations must be sent by e-mail to: riding-instructor@comcast.net Subject line of e-mail must be 2009 AWARDS.

Nominations must include a nomination letter explaining the reasons the person or horse should be honored. All nominations must be signed and include a printed name, a contact phone number, a mailing address and an e-mail address for both the nominator(s) and the nominee.

Nominations must include at least 2 high-resolution photographs of the person or horse, which are suitable for publication, and must include a photographer's release if not taken by the sender. Prints should be in color and a minimum of 4 by 6 inches in size. Digital images sent by e-mail should be at least 300 dpi and a minimum of 4 by 6 inches.

Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. All awards are based on work done in 2008 and/or 2009, except where otherwise noted. The following categories are open for nominations:

- **Top 50 Riding Instructors in America:** A worthy candidate demonstrates outstanding creativity in his/her lessons, is attentive to all safety aspects of horses and students, and shows knowledge and integrity of the highest standard.

- **Instructor of the Year:** To be eligible for this award, candidates must have been ARIA certified for at least three years and must currently be a Level II instructor or higher. A worthy candidate demonstrates outstanding creativity in his/her lessons, is attentive to all safety aspects of horses and students, and shows knowledge and integrity of the highest standard. Extra consideration will be given to instructors who have donated time to teaching in-need individuals or groups. Awarded to an outstanding ARIA-Certified Instructor who works and resides in the United States.

- **International Instructor of the Year:** Awarded to an outstanding ARIA Certified Instructor who does, or has done, their primary teaching outside of the United States.

- **Mounted Patrol Training Officer of the Year:** Awarded to an instructor who has been ARIA certified as a Mounted Patrol Training Officer for at least three years and who is certified at Level II or above. This person must have demonstrated outstanding ability in the performance of his/her job on an ongoing basis.

- **ARIA School Horse of the Year:** Awarded to a horse of any breed who is owned or used on a regular basis for teaching lessons by an ARIA Certified Instructor, and whose primary use has been as a school horse for five years or more. The horse must be kind, safe to work around and to ride, and have an outstanding attitude and personality for his/her job.

- **International School Horse or Pony of the Year:** Awarded to an outstanding lesson horse or pony, using same criteria as above, owned or used regularly by an ARIA Certified Instructor residing outside of the United States.

- **Lesson Pony of the Year:** Awarded to an outstanding lesson pony, using same criteria as School Horse of the Year above.

- **ARIA School Horse or Pony Honor Roll:** A memorial to outstanding school horses and ponies who have passed on.

- **ARIA Volunteer of the Year:** Awarded to an individual who has done the most to support and promote The American Riding Instructors Association.

- **Riding Instructor Magazine Writer of the Year:** Awarded to the writer of outstanding material published in *Riding Instructor* magazine. Work must have been published in 2008 and/or 2009.

- **Best Stable or Lesson Program Brochure:** Awarded to the best brochure advertising the stable and/or lesson program run by an ARIA certified instructor. To be judged on content, clarity and design.

- **ARIA Test Center Administrator of the Year:** Nominations open to outstanding Test Center Administrators in 2008 and/or 2009.

- **ARIA Student of the Year:** Awarded to a current student of an ARIA Certified Instructor, who has been a student of that instructor for at least two years and who has made the most improvement in his/her riding, while at the same time showing outstanding sportsmanship and dedication to the welfare of the horse or pony in his or her care.

- **ARIA Outstanding Achievement Award:** Awarded to a person who has made a significant impact on riding instruction in the United States.

- **ARIA Master Instructor Award:** Awarded to a person who has reached the pinnacle of success and accomplishment, while maintaining the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.