

Smoky Mountain Equine Fest presents

Academy Essay

A youth writing contest for horse lovers of every age. Pick the prompt for your age division, write your story or essay, and bring it to the show office.



Ages 8 & Under

You wake up one morning to find a tiny, sparkly horse standing on your pillow — no bigger than your hand! It can talk, and it says it needs your help finding its way home. Where does it come from, and what silly adventures do you have together before you help it get there?

Ages 9 to 12

Your family just inherited a horse from a relative you never met — along with a locked diary that seems to be written by the horse. Write a page from the diary, describing what your new horse thinks of you so far.

Ages 13 to 17

You've just moved to a new town, and behind your house is an old, run-down stable that everyone says has been empty for years. One night you hear hoofbeats and find a horse standing there that no one else seems to be able to see. Write about who — or what — this horse really is, and why it chose to appear to you.

Entry Details

Deadline

6:30 PM, Friday, October 2, 2026 — show office

Winners Announced

Saturday, October 3, 2026, during Academy Session Class 110

Format

Neatly handwritten or typed

Required on Every Entry

Writer's full name and age division, clearly stated

How to Submit

Hard copy only, delivered to the show office. Please do not email essays.

Prizes courtesy of Heart to Heart Grooming Salon & Smoky Mountain Equine Fest