

2026 YWS State Qualifying System

The state qualifying period for the 2026 AQHYA Youth World Show and Congress NYATT will be June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026.

Youth World Show

All youth must be members in good standing of AQHYA and KQHA before any circuits/judges will count. Members who held a 2025 membership must have their 2026 membership paid by **April 1, 2026**, for any 2025 judges to count, otherwise, those judges will be forfeited. For 2026 shows to count, a 2026 membership must be held at the time of show, and memberships may be paid at a show. Team selection is limited to KQHYA members who are legal Kansas residents per KQHYA Policy #5, sections 2 and 3, or who have completed a Change of Affiliation application according to AQHA rules.

Any youth interested in showing at the Youth World Show using the state qualifying system must submit to the youth advisor a Letter of Intent, which is available for download at KQHYA.com. All classes a member may wish to be considered for must be listed on the Letter of Intent and be filed with the youth advisor by April 1 of the year participating. Letters of Intent may be mailed to the youth advisor or emailed to kqhyadvisor@gmail.com.

KQHYA is allotted up to 504 entries at the Youth World show. Members in good standing with a Letter of Intent on file will receive a state invite to compete in their selected classes upon completion of the following requirements:

- Show at 3 circuits (a circuit is a series of shows held in a specific time), and to a minimum of 6 judges (weekday and weekend judges will count). For members who are new in 2026, consideration will be based on the date of membership paid.
- Secure a minimum of \$150 in sponsorship due by June 1st. *Additional sponsorships are welcome and encouraged.*
- Provide a quality item for the Silent Auction OR pay a buyout option of \$100 by June 1st.

For classes not held with six (6) judges and/or qualifying shows such as jumping and timed events: A Letter of Intent must be on file by April 1, 2026, and all other requirements must be met as well as proof of participation in an association such as High School/Junior High School/Youth Rodeo, NBHA, AQHA, NRHA, NCHA, NVRHA, NRCHA, IEA, USEF, etc. Examples of proof might include an association standings list, or an entry blank/tab sheet signed by a show official held by May 31, 2026.

2026 Youth World Show Qualifying Shows

Only shows approved for KQHA year-end points will be approved as state qualifying shows. As of the date of publication of this policy, the following shows are approved (additional shows may be added by KQHA and members will be notified of the addition):

Palomino Horse Exhibitors of Kansas – Lyons (June 1, 2025)
Salt City II (June 7 – 8, 2025)
Way Out West (July 18-20, 2025)
Hope in the Heartland (Sept 25 – 28, 2025)
Sunflower Celebration (Oct 11 – 12, 2025)
Prairie Classic (Feb 4-8, 2026)
Cowboy Classic (Feb 13 – 15, 2026)
Cottonwood Classic (March 19 – 22, 2026)
Oklahoma Spring Show (April 1 – 4, 2026)
Celebrating Kansas (April 30 – May 3, 2026)
Palomino Horse Exhibitors of Kansas Spring Kickoff Show (Salina, May 23 & 24, 2026)

To enter the Level 1 core classes at the Youth World Show (showmanship, horsemanship, equitation, western pleasure, hunter under saddle, ranch riding, trail) a youth must compete at the 2026 Level 1 East Championships, Level 1 West Championships or the Level 1 Cattle Championships. A Letter of Intent is not necessary for the L1 CoC classes.

Nationally qualified youth who are not members of KQHYA but residing in Kansas as of June 1, 2026, must purchase a KQHA membership before the official entry link will be provided. If a nationally qualified youth wants to use a state spot to enter classes they are not nationally qualified in, they must also provide a \$150 sponsorship, and a silent auction item or the \$100 buyout. All youth participating in the AQHYA World Show must be members in good standing with KQHA. Both state and national qualifying entries are made by the exhibitor but approved by the state advisor. All KQHA entries will be stalled with KQHYA within the stalls assigned by AQHA.

Members are responsible for all expenses associated with attending the YWS including entry fees, stalls, and tack stalls (split with another exhibitor when possible). KQHYA will provide a team T-shirt, hospitality stall, and other amenities if funds allow.

The KQHYA Youth Committee reserves the right to extend an invitation to youth who may not have met all qualifications on a case-by-case basis.

Important Dates

National Qualifying Dates, May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026
State Qualifying, June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026
AQHA Level 1 East, Wilmington, OH - April 20 – 26
AQHA Level 1 West, Las Vegas, NV - May 11 – 16
Entries Open for 2026 Youth World Show – July 1
AQHA Level 1 Cattle Championships (Ranch Riding), Amarillo, TX – June 21 - 27
AQHYA World Show - July 29 – August 9, 2026