

Junior Equestrian of the Year

Ruth O'Keefe Meredith Memorial Trophy

Ms. O'Keefe was a valued member of the Federation and a nationally recognized figure in the horse-showing world. She was awarded the Walter B. Devereux Memorial Trophy, the Federation's prestigious award. In April of 1985 the Board of Directors of the Federation established the Ruth O'Keefe Meredith Memorial Trophy for the Junior Equestrian of the Year.

Criteria: Awarded to a junior member of the Federation in good standing who:

- Has competed at one or more USEF-recognized competitions during the last year.
- Personifies the virtues of honor, courage, patience, good temper, unselfishness, and sincerity.
- Exhibits the qualities of good sportsmanship and integrity.
- Exemplifies exceptional talent and dedication to the sport.
- Shows compassion for horses and horse welfare

Selection of Winner: Nominations are submitted by US Equestrian National Breed/Discipline Affiliates and Committees. Once the USEF Marketing staff will reach out to the nominees for biographical information (a resume listing equestrian and academic accomplishments) and a short letter or essay (topic to be chosen by the Awards Committee). Nominees are encouraged to provide information in all areas. The committee will narrow down the list of nominees to 3-4 and will interview those individuals.

Award: Trophy given at the Pegasus Awards Dinner during the Annual Meeting.

Timeline: Mailings will be sent to National Breed/Discipline Affiliates and Committees containing informational packets and nomination forms. In the event insufficient nominations are received by the Breed/Discipline Affiliates and Committees, USEF Marketing and Sport staff may put nominations forward. Nominations may be accepted year-round with a deadline of **October 14, 2026.**

Following the submission deadline all the nominees will be contacted and asked for their resumes and essays, the deadline for submission will be set at that time. Once received, the resumes and essays are sent to each of the Awards Committee members and a conference call will be set up to discuss and select the nominees to be interviewed. The selected nominees will be interviewed by the panel and the winner chosen immediately following. Immediately following the interviews and selection of the winner, official notification will be sent to the winner as well as all who were interviewed via email.

Perpetual Trophy: Silver plated platter

Past Winners:

2020 Lucy Enns
2021 Sophia Huffman
2022 Skylar Wireman
2023 Marin McKee
2024 Paige Walkenbach

2025 Mikayla Clement