

MANITOBA HORSE COUNCIL INC
ANNUAL AWARDS
Description of Categories
March 31, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The recipient of a Manitoba Horse Council (MHC) Award embodies the characteristics defined in the respective award criteria. Recipients may be recognized for outstanding achievement or for sustained, outstanding contributions within the community. The Awards Committee encourages nominators to provide detailed information to clearly demonstrate the impact of the nominee.

Awards Categories

1. MHC Legacy Award
2. Equine Welfare Award
3. Volunteer Awards – Industry, Recreation, and Sport
4. Athlete Award

General Requirements

- *MHC staff and board members are ineligible to nominate or be nominated in any category.*
- *Nominations are accepted only through the online nomination form.*
- *Nominators must hold a valid MHC membership or be the parent of a minor who holds such a membership.*
- *Candidates may not self-nominate, nor may their family members nominate them.*
- *Individuals may be nominated for multiple categories; however, nominations for each category must be submitted separately.*
- *Candidates may be of any age or involved in any discipline and must hold a valid MHC membership at the time of nomination (note: nominees for the Equine Welfare Award are exempt from the membership requirement).*
- *Candidates must reside in Manitoba.*
- *Two references are required for each nomination (name, email, and affiliation to the nominee).*
- *The decisions of the MHC Awards Committee are final.*

Important

- *Award recipients will only be recognized once for a given category; multiple nominations for the same individual/entity in that category are not permitted to ensure ongoing, province-wide recognition of contributions.*

MHC Legacy Award

This award is reserved as a special honour for an individual or group who demonstrates outstanding performance and has made a significant contribution to benefit the industry.

As such, it may not be presented every year.

The recipient (individual or group) is regarded as an exceptional member of the equine community, demonstrating an elevated level of commitment, initiative, cooperation, and dedication that reinforces the values of MHC. The recipient exhibits excellence, teamwork, and surpasses expectations. The recipient need not be involved with horses daily; what matters most is the significant and lasting impact made on the equestrian industry through service.

Equine Welfare Award

This award recognizes at least one of the following:

- Integration of animal welfare into core business strategies, with demonstrated leadership and commitment to issues related to animal care.
- An active role in effectively communicating equine welfare issues and raising public awareness.
- Demonstrated commitment to responsible equine care through ownership or interaction with others.

Please include examples illustrating why the nominee leads in equine care as it relates to the award. Letters of reference are particularly important for this award.

Volunteer Award

These volunteers go above and beyond in their local communities, playing a vital role in a variety of organizations such as riding clubs, therapeutic riding centers, organizing provincial competitions, and local trail access and building initiatives. Their efforts enrich the lives of others and create a positive, lasting impact on the equestrian community in the region.

SPORT:

These volunteers help drive equestrian sport in Manitoba, including creating pathways for athlete development, supporting grassroots initiatives, and ensuring equestrian sport thrives at all levels in the province.

RECREATION:

These volunteers promote recreational riding at provincial and municipal levels, including advocating for road safety, access to crown lands, promoting multi-use access, collaborating with trail access groups to influence policy, and supporting trail building and access at provincial and municipal levels.

INDUSTRY:

In this category, volunteers who have made a significant impact or implemented innovative solutions that improve horse welfare. This can include novel business practices, developing science-based educational resources, assisting during crises, providing exceptional care practices, or contributing to provincial programs and policy initiatives.

Nominees are not required to be current MHC members.

Does the Nominee meet any of the following criteria? (Please check all that apply)

- Shows commitment to their club and/or community.
- Mentors others, providing inspiration and encouragement.
- Supports various equine programs and activities throughout the province.
- Performs unselfish acts of service to others in the Manitoba equine community.
- Exhibits a giving spirit in the Manitoba equine community.
- Made a significant and lasting impact on the equestrian industry through their volunteer service

Coach Award

The recipient of this award is an MHC member and a licensed, certified Equestrian Canada National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) coach or instructor.

This individual demonstrates exceptional mentoring, leading by example and teaching in a positive, supportive, and informative manner. They place high value on continuing education and empower others to learn and grow in a safe and encouraging environment.

Guided by strong ethics, they prioritize equine welfare and humane treatment, consistently striving for what is best for both horse and rider. They welcome feedback, foster collaboration, and focus on the holistic development of their athletes—human and equine alike.

Nominees are recognized for meaningful contributions to equine sport and activity as instructors or coaches, regardless of whether their students are recreational riders or competitive athletes.

- MHC member in good standing
- Demonstrates the values of safe sport, treating athletes, parents, officials, and volunteers with understanding, respect, and acceptance of differences.
- Shows dedication and skill that have benefited both human and equine athletes.
- Shares knowledge and insight with their students.
- Believes in and practices ethical conduct in the barn, the arena, and at competitions.
- Demonstrates positive enthusiasm and dedication.

Credit will be given to coaches who promote and use the EC Learn to Ride/Drive program to teach and evaluate riders. However, it is acknowledged that a coach may be licensed without having completed the Rider Level program, especially in non-English disciplines, and this will be considered.

Athlete of the Year

The award is given to an athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and dedication to equestrian sport.

The individual exhibits unwavering ambition, a cheerful outlook, and determination toward their activity, whether competition or recreation. They set personal goals and strive to achieve them, handling setbacks with resilience. They dedicate time to their equine partners and show a well-rounded interest in daily care and responsibility for riding and/or owning a horse. They treat others, including their equine partner, with the utmost respect, kindness, and care.

This individual not only enjoys but takes pride in their activity and demonstrates a high level of commitment to practice and, if applicable, competition schedules.

Please provide a list of competition results from the year.

Does the Nominee meet any of the following criteria? (Please check all that apply)

- Competed in a recognized equestrian discipline.
- Participated in an MHC and/or Equine Canada sanctioned event.
- Exhibited high level of commitment to both practice and competition.
- Represented Manitoba at either a Provincial, National, or International level competition.

Youth

- Aged 17 years or younger as of January 1 of the current calendar year

Adult

- Aged 18 or older as of January 1 of the current calendar year