

# National Youth Board



UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS

## National Youth Board Newsletter 2024 Recap

### NYB Mission Statement

It is the mission of the National Youth Board (NYB) to act as a liaison between the youth membership of USPC and the Board of Governors by communicating the needs, ideas, and concerns of USPC youth to governing officers. NYB members provide member insight and bring forward ideas and proposals regarding important issues, as well as conduct independent projects under the direction of the National Office.

### 2024 USPC Festival Recap



The 2024 USPC Festival was held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Three members on the NYB were present: Lydia Eilinger, Jocelyn Hunt, and Marissa Redmond. These members took part in the opening ceremony by reading the Pony Club Pledge together.

### Annual Fund

As of October 2024, the NYB has achieved 97% giving to the Annual Fund.

### NYB Committees Change and Passion Projects

As 2024 came to a close, the NYB determined that disbanding all the current committees would be most productive for future projects. These committees include the Marketing Committee, the Member Affairs and Networking Committee, the Service Committee, and the Regional Youth Board Committee.

This initiative aims to increase the productivity of the National Youth Board by reallocating time to larger, more meaningful projects that align with the strategic goals of the Board of Governors and USPC. Each passion project will be led by a National Youth Board member who will serve as the head of the project. Members may

choose to participate in one or both projects for the year. The passion projects that were focused on for the end of 2024 were reviving the National Youth Summit at the 2025 USPC Convention and expanding the Pin Promise initiative.

Currently, the NYB has one passion project planned for 2025, which was proposed by Isabelle Dow. This project will be

gin at the 2025 USPC Convention, where each National Youth Board member will bring information gathered through interviews of their fellow members. These interview questions will aim at collecting data to see how other USPC members are perceiving Pony Club and what they are looking at achieving in 2025. Based on these interviews, we will develop a meaningful passion project for the year. This initiative will not only allow the National Youth Board to connect with other members, but also raise awareness of the board's role and benefits within the Pony Club community. Following Convention, the NYB will continue to review the data to create new ideas for projects that will better serve the goals and wishes of Pony Club members.

## Committee Closeouts

The NYB Marketing and Communications Committee closed the year by reinstating the Pin Promise with help from Jocelyn Hunt. Jocelyn distributed USPC Alumni pins to the alumni competing at the MARS Maryland 5\* and 3\*.



The Member Affairs and Networking Committee closed the year by continuing to generate ideas for submission to the National Office. These centered on achieving our horse welfare SMART goal. The NYB, as a whole, plans on continuing discussions during monthly board calls. The Service Committee finished the year by organizing a national fall food drive. This project required action from all regions, with participation starting in the Delmarva Region. Regions were encouraged to host food drives at any event, such as rallies, camps, clinics, or meetings.

## Optional Third Year to NYB Members

Starting in 2025, the maximum number of members on the National Youth Board will increase from 14 to 16 per year. Outgoing second-year members must declare their intent to stay on the board for an optional third year before the application deadline for new members.

In their first year, members primarily focus on learning how the board operates and understanding what is expected of them. By the second year, members work on completing the projects they are involved in, however the year often goes by quickly. In line with the Board of Governors three-year term limit, we believe the three-year term limit for NYB will prove to be more functional.

This additional third year will allow members the chance to apply themselves further and fully see through any projects or initiatives they are overseeing.