

It's a Reiner's World

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Being an equestrian has shaped my personality and taught me things I never would have learned. I am versatile, dependable, and responsible.

I started riding horses in 2002, when I was 4 years old. In 2007, I was lucky enough to have a horse of my own and I started my journey as a showman. Being only nine years old and joining a small show circuit, I had to learn how to make friends and talk to my fellow competitors. I was able to learn how to talk to everyone, no matter the age. I could have fun running around the show grounds with the kids that were around my age, or I could happily walk around by myself and talk to everyone that I came across. This has helped not only my conversational skills, but my confidence. I am confident walking into a job interview or my first university classroom and being one of the youngest people there. Being younger than the people around me has never put me at a disadvantage. In fact, many times it has made me stand out from the crowd and possibly give me the opportunity to show what I have to offer.

Horses have taught me that succeeding is not necessarily winning, and winning isn't everything. Reining is a complicated sport, and our team mates sometimes can decide that they don't want to run. One show you can take home all of the ribbons and feel like you're on top of the world, while the next show you take home nothing. Being a part of a sport of this nature, it has taught me to be humble, and to not base my success on how many times I've won. Rather, to base my success on how I am progressing with my horse. I have learned that success is about finally staying out the penalty box, or figuring out just when the perfect time to change leads is. To me, success is about progressing in your own way and having fun with your best friend. This has translated into a knowledge that success isn't about luck, but hard work and perseverance. Both with my horse, and the outside world.

Owning a horse has also taught me to be dependable. My horse trusts me, and the people I hire to help me, with her life. Owning a horse is a full time commitment. When I go on a trip, I need to make sure my horse will be well taken care of while I'm gone. I need to make sure that even if I have a busy schedule, my horse still gets ridden consistently for her health. I am responsible for a life, and she can't tell me what is wrong when she is in pain. I need to be able to see what is wrong and take the necessary steps towards making her feel better. Bills need to be paid on time, and I need to keep track of any injections or maintenance that is on a set schedule. This has given me an organized and dependable mindset.

Horses and showing is an escape for me. If I am stressed or upset, I go to see my horse. Even though showing is stressful, and it's long days, being in the ring with my horse is freedom. Both of us focussed, and feeling my horse waiting for me and giving her heart every time we ride is amazing and I wish everyone could feel it. Being an equestrian has given me a well rounded personality and has given me skills that have taken many other people several years to learn and develop.