

About Jillian Keding

2017 NYSHC Western Chapter Youth Member

- Age, where you were born? I am currently 9 years old, but I'll be 10 in June. I was born in Syracuse, NY
- School program? I am a 4th grader at Boston Valley Elementary School, and school is my highest priority. My favorite class is math because I like numbers and figuring problems. Every Tuesday I get to help with the Special Needs kids program, this is fun because I get to interact with kids that I can help and this makes me proud.
- Interests and hobbies? I like to ride horses. I have an English riding lesson every Wednesday; my favorite kind of horse is the Morgan. Morgans have a great story and they can do lots of things, like pull weights, ride, and they have a good personality. I also take a martial art called Krav Maga. I am now a brown belt, and working towards my black belt. I like the challenge that the other students give me while keeping healthy and active. My two Jack Russell terriers are fun to play with when I'm home. Traveling is also a lot of fun and I have been to a bunch of different places. 2 years ago we went to Ireland, and I got to ride a Connemara pony named Black Jack for an afternoon tour of Irish ruins (piles of stones that used to be buildings) hills, and castles. He was a very smooth riding, easy going pony that liked to trot. My parents rode big Irish draft horses with feathered feet and they were very sore when the tour was over. We also went to the Irish Stud farm where I got to see thoroughbred race horses. I've also been to the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Dominican Republic, Canada, and we just got back from a vacation to the West Coast, mostly San Diego,
- Do you write articles / newsletters? I write both. I have had an article in Mane Stream News and other magazines.
- Goals in the future? What would you like to be / become? My goals for the future are to go to college and veterinary school. And to try and hold the title of a horse reporter. When I grow up I'd like to be a veterinarian. This summer I am going to SPCA summer camp to learn more about what veterinarians do. I'm also waiting to see if they have a summer camp at the Erie County Fair that focuses on what the vets do there to take care of the Fair animals.
- Do you have horses? Are you involved with any programs with horses? I ride at Skibbereen Farms in Orchard Park, my favorite horse to ride is Okie, she is a small Chestnut colored horse that is calm, well fitted, and she is funny! When you pet her on the nose, she tries to suck on your fingers. She also loves to eat the buttercups that grow in the grass. I also ride a pony named Honey Bear; she is a very challenging pony to ride because she always wants to be the boss this forces me to take control with my leg muscles to make her behave.
- What are your goal / purpose of being the 2017 NYSHC Youth Representative? My goal to educate people about horses and ponies, bring more interest to the equine youth community because it's so much fun. It makes me feel strong and that I can accomplish so much.
- How or what do you think you can do to help promote the Youth Program (to become members and become involved)? I can help the youth program by bring in more members by writing articles, making friends, trying to attend meetings and talking to people and sharing my love of horses to make them interested.