

For NCMA members who are not acquainted with the High Point Program this piece will help you get started. For all of those who may have participated in the program before, there are a few more topics to consider. Did you know that half-Morgans may win awards in some divisions? Did you know that you could win an award for going on trail rides? The awards are presented at the year-end NCMA banquet. The winners are recognized and take home a cool award to remind them of their success during the show season.

For a complete description, the High Point Rules spell out all the details and they can be accessed on the NCMA website.

The first requirement to participate in the High Point Program is to register for High Point on the membership form. If you have sent in a membership form without high point registrations, you can send in a form later with the registrations you want to make. This includes, but does not require, a list of the horses' names and ages that you wish to nominate. Each horse must be a registered Morgan. If you do not specify a horse's name, then the High Point Committee will collect the points for any horse you own and show, and place the one with the most points in competition for the awards. Clearly, a specific horse's name is helpful; however, if you are showing several horses and don't know which one will be most successful, you don't have to commit to a specific horse at the beginning of the season. You may list all of them or none of them; you just decide on the number of nominations you want to make. To register for the Equitation division or Academy division, the riders to be nominated must be named on the nomination form. Calculate the amount due by multiplying the required fee by the number of nominations and write your check. Send it in and you are registered!

Once you have registered and paid the fee, all you have to do is show your horse! The High Point Committee will total all the points from all NCMA and TriState approved shows from Equitation classes, Ranch Horse classes, Academy classes and In Hand classes, as well as Morgan Performance classes. Your horse may win an award for any division where you have collected more points during the show season than any other nominee. The horse must have shown in a given division in at least two shows.

The Morgan Performance awards are separated into six categories: English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, Pleasure Driving, Classic Pleasure, and Park Horse. Each of these is divided again into different award categories. For example, English Pleasure classes will be counted separately for Open, Amateur, Junior Horse, Junior Exhibitor, Ladies, Gentlemen and Walk/Trot classes. There are potentially seven English Pleasure High Point Awards. The same categories apply to Western Pleasure and Hunter Pleasure. Pleasure Driving has five awards: Open, Junior Horse, Amateur/Junior Exhibitor, Ladies and Gentlemen. Classic Pleasure has three awards; Classic Pleasure Saddle, Classic Pleasure Driving and Junior Exhibitor. The Park Horse division has two awards: Saddle and Harness.

The Sport Horse Awards include the Carriage Award Category, the Dressage Award Category and the Hunter over Fences Category.

If you have a half-Morgan, that horse may compete for a Sport Horse Award. Please read the NCMA High Point Rules for these categories, which include rules specific to their discipline. In addition, exhibitors are responsible for sending in all their points, on the High Point form, for each event they participate in. The High Point Committee must receive the information for each event and class in order to count those points.

There are also High Point awards for Trail Rides, Open Competition, and Member Promotion. These awards also require the owner to send in their own points. On the website there is a Trail Ride Log Sheet for sending in your trail ride points. For all other events, you are asked to fill out the High Point form with the name of the show or event, the name of the class, the number of entries in the class, and your place. Also if you go to a show which is not NCMA or TriState approved, points earned there may count, but you have to fill out the form and mail it in so we will know about it.

The Overall Open Competition Award is for horses that show in classes open to all breeds.

These must be performance classes at an event in the NCMA area, and points must be earned in at least two shows. Points are tabulated the same as for the Morgan Performance classes. If your NCMA nominated horse shows at FASH, for example, in Open English Pleasure and also shows at North Star in an Open English Pleasure class, which is open to all breeds, these points will count toward an award. However they will only be counted if you send them in on the High Point Form.

The NCMA Member Promotion Award is to encourage participation in unrestricted, all breed events where more people will observe our beautiful Morgans in action. It can be a parade, a trail ride, a wagon train or expo, as long as it is at an organized, publicized event. Trail rides can be counted separately for a Trail Riding Award or as part of a Member Promotion award. So if you ride in one parade and go on one trail ride, you could submit points for those two together for a Member Promotion Award. If you go on two more trail rides, points for those two could be submitted for a Trail Riding Award. There must be two qualifying events in each category and no event can be counted twice. Anyone submitting points for these two awards, just send them in; the High Point Committee will help sort it out!

The NCMA High Point area includes the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Ontario and Manitoba. The events most of our members attend include Kandi Klassic, FASH, Summerfest, North Star, Morgan Masterpiece, Madison Classic, Prairie State, Octoberfest and Jubilee. For other events, if you go, send in a copy of the prize list with your points so the High Point Committee can determine if it qualifies.