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Arabian Horse Association Youth Nationals Signs New 5-Year Partnership with EXPO New Mexico; Show Set for July 23-30, 2011

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The Youth National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show (Youth Nationals) will celebrate its 19th year in Albuquerque, at EXPO New Mexico, July 23 through 30. The Arabian Horse Association (AHA) of Aurora, Colo., produces the weeklong event that features top-level horse show competition, a shopping expo. The annual Youth Convention and brings an estimated \$11.2 million to Albuquerque.

“We are very pleased to have the Arabian Youth Nationals here on the grounds every year for horse lovers and the public to enjoy,” said EXPO New Mexico Interim General Manager Dan Mourning, “and we’re proud to partner each year with the Albuquerque Convention and Visitor’s Bureau partners on this event – it’s good for us, good for the City and good for the horse folks. Every year for the last two decades we’ve brought more than 1,000 gorgeous Arabians and an incredible variety of competitive and other events here for an incredible 10-day event, which we offer free to the public, and as of today we’re proud to announce that we’ve struck a new long-term partnership with the AHA that will ensure the Youth Arabian Show will call EXPO home at least through 2015.”

This year's horse show will again feature 1,000-plus horses from across the United States and Canada, competing in more than 100 classes in a wide variety of disciplines. Exhibitors up to 18 years of age compete for prizes such as saddles, plaques, ribbons and trophies. Competition starts Saturday July 23, and runs through Saturday, July 30. Classes run from early each morning until late into the night almost every day, and are divided into morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Finals night is Saturday, July 30 and features competitors going head to head in mounted native costume, western pleasure, hunter pleasure, country English pleasure and the crowd favorite-park. Admission to all performances is free.

“EXPO New Mexico, and the equestrian community in Albuquerque all across New Mexico have been a pleasure to work with over the years,” said Mickey Hegg, Arabian Youth Nationals Chairwoman. “We’ve got a strong fan base here, and the recent work that EXPO has done to improve its equestrian facilities is phenomenal, and the EXPO staff are always among the best we work with anywhere in the country. We really couldn’t be more pleased.”

EXPO New Mexico recently completed a \$1.2 million capital improvement project on its Palomino Barns, among the first buildings erected on the grounds in the mid-1930s. The project included the removal and replacement of all the old woodwork and roofs inside the three barns, including the shutters. The entire structure has been brought up to current construction codes while the traditional look and character of the barns has been carefully preserved. The new barns are expected to give the Fairgrounds another 70 to 90 years of service.

About the Arabian Youth Nationals

The Arabian Horse Youth Association (AHYA) makes up more than 10 percent of AHA with more than 4,000 members. An intelligent and involved bunch, members of AHYA are among the best and brightest in the equine industry. For more information, visit <http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/nationalevents/youthnationals/2011/>.

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