



2020 SEDRA Cathy Booth Memorial Horsemanship Award Nominee: Kim Williams

Kim is a sought-after rider to accompany others on distance rides. She is pleasant and entertaining as well as no-nonsense and focused on the competition itself. She mentors and sponsors young riders, including her own granddaughter. She always keeps a calm demeanor and when incidents impacting safety of horse or riders occur she is one that others look to for timely, appropriate assistance.

Kim radiates enthusiasm for distance riding. She loves sharing the sport with others. She has been

instrumental in getting her granddaughter into the sport. She has utilized the sport to teach her granddaughter life lessons such as taking responsibility for your actions and for the good care of your horse. Even when you are tired and hungry. No whining is allowed and if she hears it, she quickly corrects it if you are a child. If you are an adult, a look suffices. She is always willing to answer questions and give advice, but only when asked.

Kim commands respect from all riders, regardless of age. She is direct and focused on the task at hand, but she is respectful of others and never compromises her belief in safety for all and the good care of horses. She is a skilled rider and is more than willing to be a role model for excellence. Best of all she almost always has a smile on her face.

Kim certainly embodies the spirit of this award.

2020 SEDRA King's OCS Lad Memorial Trail Horse Award Nominee: Zahen CorALeo Sinsonte

This gelding, known as Zen, has covered many miles of trail, some in competition, some not. He enjoys competing. He thrives on the attention he gets during rides and is always willing to head out for more. He goes well and where he is asked to go, without reluctance or fuss. Zen is very easy to handle on the ground and always trusts and focuses on his handler. At one ride three horses escaped their electric pens after dark and went running through camp. Other horses were screaming and wheeling around in their pens. A couple even escaped. Zen was on a long line held by his owner, grazing. Rather than panicking and attempting to escape, he moved closer to his person and awaited reassurance. He leads well, does not pull or attempt to escape and can be safely handled with other geldings, mares or stallions. He is calm alone or in groups in camp.

On the trail Zen is mannerly, not buddy sour, is quiet and easily rated, even at the start of a ride when spirits are high. He does not attempt to kick or bite other horses and yields the trail to others when appropriate.. He goes calmly where asked, when asked. Whether the terrain is rocky, boggy, sandy, flat, hilly or covered in deep opaque water he will take it on. He has accompanied several green horses on rides to give them confidence. On one ride he ponied another horse when its rider's stirrup broke and she had to walk to camp rather than ride. He had never ponied a horse before. When confronted with difficult terrain such as tree holes or deep sand, he always slows and awaits the rider's directions, never becoming uncontrollable even if other horses are acting up.



Zen stands out in his group due to his demeanor, confidence and easygoing nature. He is very special in the fact that should his owner be so silly as to lose her seat he will usually only take a few steps and stop, looking down as if to say, well, now, what happened here. He has run off only once. He was cantering on the trail at a ride when he hit a deep hole, fell forward onto his knees and tossed his rider. He continued down the trail, but had already turned and was on his way back to his rider when captured by another rider on horseback. He hadn't even gone half a mile. Zen has been ridden by others, although never in competitions. He has carried all those riders safely and well.

On one of the only two CTRs he has done he was awarded Best Trail Horse (11/2012). He is truly a dependable mount and a joy to ride.



2020 SEDRA Mickey Blanford Excellence in Competition Award Nominee: Stephanie Sutch

Stephanie has always been focused on self-improvement in the form of learning new distance training techniques by reading and viewing pertinent information. She has participated in distance clinics both as a learner and as a presenter. Her forte as a presenter is safety in ride camp. She has produced an excellent workshop on safety in handling horses at a ride venue and in how to safely confine them while there which she has shared with both novice and experienced riders.

Stephanie brings all her horses along slowly. She makes the experience of trailering, tacking, riding and camping as stress-free as possible for the horse. She takes baby steps and is consistent with her expectations while working with horses. She gives them consistent verbal and non-verbal structure during interactions. The best example is her work with her stallion over the past several years. She has done an excellent job of assisting her "all boy" to become an elegant, balanced, well-tuned and mannerly horse first, stallion second. He is able to compete and

win due to her efforts and their mutual respect for each other. Stephanie's goal is for him to become a good representative of his breed and to hopefully do his part in preserving it in the breeding shed.

Stephanie trains in the arena and during trail rides. She uses basic dressage type movements and provides the horses practice at conquering obstacles commonly seen on the "real" trail. She has found the SEDRA short introductory rides to be especially effective venues for getting horses used to all that distance riding encompasses less the competition component.

Stephanie is up-to-date with the latest appropriate use of electrolytes, feeding protocols and overall physical and mental care of not only horses in general, but of the individual horse. Since she has begun training her stallion she has also discussed the handling and care of stallions with those who actually own and compete stallions. She is especially cognizant of the safety of other horses and riders with whom she comes into contact while handling her stallion.

Stephanie is a knowledgeable, compassionate, well-versed rider who certainly embodies the intent of this award.