



## BREED AWARD GUIDELINES

The NATRC™ Breed Award program has two goals. One is to showcase the diverse breeds that compete and succeed in competitive trail riding. The second is to publicize our great sport to the many breed organizations so that their members can discover NATRC. In addition to our year end awards, we often highlight breeds in *Hoof Print*. Horses from the Open, CP and Novice Divisions who have met the criteria below are eligible for year end National Breed Awards.

1. The horse is ridden by a current competing member of NATRC.
2. The horse's registration with its breed organization(s) is current and all breed organization criteria, including membership, are met.

**Below are some common questions about the program. If you have others, please contact our breed award liaison.**

### ***How do my horse's points get reported?***

When you complete a ride entry form, you are asked for your horse's breed, registered name and registration number, if any. You must also provide a copy of your horse's breed papers at *every ride*. Once the ride is completed, your horses' name, points, miles and breed are on the ride report sent to National.

### ***What if my horse is double or triple registered?***

A horse's points can count in all breeds in which it is registered. The owner/rider must report to NATRC each breed registry, the horse's name and registration number. Ride secretaries will report just one breed, so choose which one you will use. *Please DO NOT ask secretaries to track more than one – they are busy enough!* As long as you have contacted National about the other breeds your horse is registered with, they will be tracked.

### ***What if my horse isn't registered with any breed organization?***

The biggest breed category in NATRC is 'Grade Horse'. Since there are so many great horses that are grade, NATRC tries to locate a private sponsor for this award.

### ***What if my horse is the only representative of its breed?***

That is fine – as long as you and your horse meet the eligibility requirements above, and those of the breed organization, you may receive an award as sponsored.

### ***Who decides if my horse gets an award?***

At the end of the year, the breed award liaison receives a list from NATRC of horses who have competed. From this, the liaison narrows it down to horses eligible in each breed. The NATRC liaison then submits the information for the top five horses in each breed, regardless of division (NBOD 7/07), to each breed organization. The horses are listed in descending order of points earned. It is the BREED ORGANIZATION, NOT NATRC, which makes the final decision regarding approval of a breed award sponsorship and eligibility of the recipient(s). All breed organizations have varying criteria for membership and award eligibility. Once they have determined which horse could receive the award, the organization usually contacts the owner with the good news and to verify eligibility. In the event we have a horse listed and the organization can't match it in their registry, the liaison will try to contact the owner to verify information. Your horse may be the NATRC high point horse in that breed, but it may not receive an award. *Please check with your horse's breed organization to determine its criteria.*

### ***How can I check my horse's standing at year end?***

Checking the accuracy of your horse's points and breed status is the rider/owner's responsibility. Please contact the National Office.

### ***Why are some awards extravagant and others very simple?***

Again, the choice of what will be presented is up to the breed organization, NOT NATRC. Some organizations give embroidered jackets, others paper certificates. Some organizations have huge memberships and are more financially fit, or the organization may focus their resources elsewhere. Just remember your horse is one of the top in its breed in NATRC!

### **PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE SOMETIME DURING THE RIDE YEAR BUT PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO VERIFY THAT**

**NATIONAL HAS YOUR HORSE'S CORRECT INFORMATION.** Contact the national office at [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org). It is often too late by year's end to straighten out registration glitches. Most organizations are eager to sponsor an award, but there are some who don't respond or don't give an award. Once the information is sent to the organizations, it is final.

*Please remember that although your horse is listed in the top six nationally, it may not receive an award and that we may not know until just before the National Convention if an award has been approved. It does mean however that you and your horse had a GREAT year!*