

LEAP

stands for

Levels of Excellence Award Program.

LEAP is a “levels” program created in 1994 that allows youth members to accumulate LEAP points throughout their Youth career, earning awards and recognition as they climb the ladder of success. LEAP points are earned through participation in NYCHA in many categories such as attending workshops; promoting the sport of cutting by writing a newspaper article or giving a speech; or helping with fundraisers. Youth also earn points based on their performance in the cutting arena. The program was designed to recognize youth in the cutting horse family for participation in youth activities even if they were not showing cutting horses.

LEAP Awards

LEAP awards are given for: Initial (1,000 points), Bronze (2,500 points), Silver (5,000 points), Gold (7,500 points), Platinum (10,000 points) and Diamond (15,000 points). These awards are presented individually to the youth during their NYCHA Awards Banquet held at the Summer Cutting Spectacular in Fort Worth, Texas, usually in July. A six-year old member could potentially reach the first level of accomplishment (1,000 pts.) and accept a LEAP award without ever competing in the cutting arena.

Why is it important to participate in LEAP?

It is now mandatory for a youth to participate in LEAP in order to reach the NYCHA Hall of Fame. But more than that, LEAP gives all youth members a way to be recognized for their participation in the NCHA's youth organization. It gives youth from all levels of experience and ability a chance to reach the NYCHA Hall of Fame by participating in many activities. LEAP points will also play an important role in selecting the recipients of the NYCHA & Walton Family Foundation Scholarships. Applicants for these \$5,000 scholarships must turn in a current year's LEAP form as well as list their total LEAP points earned.

How can I participate in LEAP and what are the age requirements?

To participate in LEAP, a youth must first become a member of NYCHA. Dues for NYCHA are currently either \$25/year, Chatter not included and \$60/year, Chatter included. Youth may join NYCHA at any time during the year by filling out the membership form found in the Chatter magazine or on the NCHA website, www.nchacutting.com. To participate in LEAP, the youth member simply needs to fill out and submit a LEAP form each year. Youth may participate in LEAP when they reach three years of age.

How do I get my LEAP form?

LEAP forms are available in the Chatter Magazine as well as on the NYCHA website, <http://www.nchacutting.com/youth/youth-forms>. LEAP forms should be completed and returned to the NYCHA Youth Coordinator at the NCHA office, 260 Bailey Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76107 no later than September 30 each year.