



ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERSHIP

RECOGNITION AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Minnesota Junior Simmental Association (MJSA) is a breed organization that allows young people (ages 8-21 as of January 1) to be engaged in the Simmental breed and enhance their potential for life success by instilling a comprehensive understanding of the Simmental breed while developing breeding, exhibiting, raising, leadership, networking, and communication skills. To help guide members to get the most out of their membership and award them for their efforts, a new program is being introduced to track their engagement in the MJSA. Points will be totaled for annual recognition at the Minnesota Simmental Association State Banquet and MJSA Auction in February. Points will also accumulate and be a factor for awarding educational scholarships to active members, to help support individuals who want to attend the bi-annual AJSA Leadership Conference, and to support those MJSA members who may earn a position as a national trustee.

The following are areas where members can earn points each year:

| Points | Activity |
|---------------|---|
| 1 | Attend state sale and work in concessions or help at auction |
| 1 | Donate an item to the state auction |
| 1 | Attend MJSA meeting at state sale |
| 1 | Attend Summer Field Day |
| 2 | Participate at a Regional Junior Simmental Classic |
| 2 | Participate at the National Junior Simmental Classic |
| 1 | Participate/exhibit in the Simmental Open Class Show at MN State Fair |
| 1 | Participate/exhibit in the Simmental Show at MN Beef Expo |
| 1 | Attend MJSA meeting at MN Beef Expo |
| 3 | Be an active MJSA officer or board member |
| 2 | Run to be a Trustee and/or serve as an AJSA Trustee |
| 16 | Total points possible to earn each year |

This year the budget has been set to award cash prizes to students with 11+ points receiving 50 dollars, and students with 5-10 points receiving 25 dollars. Student's name will be put into a hat and three individuals in each categories will receive an additional prize.

- Junior (age 8-14/January)
- Senior (age 15 – 21/January)

Points totals should be submitted by February 1 for eligibility for the annual recognition.

AJSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP (*Application for conference scholarship is due June 15*)

Members who have completed their 9th grade year of school and older can complete an application to apply for funds to support their participation and travel expenses in the AJSA Leadership Conference. A \$500 conference scholarship will be awarded based on evaluation of the application which is worth 50 points. Their accumulated participation points will be added to help make the final award determination. MJSA could award up to three conference scholarships each year.

The applications will be reviewed by a group of three individuals (not related to the applicants):

- A junior member 15 years or older
- A senior board member
- Another MSA adult member

The MJSA advisor will provide the activity points and confirm they are accurate. The application will consist of three essay questions (total word count for all three responses should not exceed 800 words)

- Tell us about your involvement with the Simmental breed (15 points)
- Why do you want to attend the Leadership conference and how will you apply what you learned? (20 points)
- Identify one challenge you have faced in raising and exhibiting Simmentals and how you have addressed the challenge. (15 points)

MJSA members who attend the AJSA Leadership Conference should provide a written report to the members and an in-person presentation to MJSA members at the February meeting.

MJSA CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP (*Scholarship applications are due February 1 to Jessica Aggen*)

MJSA members who are High School Senior or older can apply for a scholarship to apply to their education plans after school. This include a trade school, technical college, university or beyond. The purpose of the scholarship is to reward active members of the MJSA and support their continuing education plans. Scholarships will be awarded based on evaluation of the application which is worth 50 points. Their accumulated participation points will be added to help make the final award determination. Applicants should also provide proof of enrollment such as a transcript or acceptance letter.

The scholarship applications will be reviewed by a group of three individuals (not related to the applicants):

- A junior member 15 years or older
- A senior board member
- Another MSA adult member

The MJSA advisor will provide the activity points and confirm they are accurate. The application will consist of three essay questions (total word count for all three responses should not exceed 800 words)

- Tell us about your future career plans and the education path you have selected (20 points)
- What have you learned from your involvement in the Simmental association that you will apply to your life's work (20 points)
- How can/will you advocate for the beef industry in your future? (10 points)

An individual can only earn the scholarship once, but they can apply for it more than once up until they are 21. Recipients must be a paid member of MJSA.

