

Afton McConahay  
Manila High School, Grade 12  
Utah

### What Drives You

I am planning to attend college in order to improve my knowledge in the equine industry. I train horses and enjoy working with horses and people. I plan to major in equine management with a minor in psychology at Utah State University. I plan to get a certification in equine assisted services. I have experience teaching equine therapy riding lessons to young kids as well as children with special needs, this experience has given me the chance to explore my interests and passions. I was able to gain hands-on experience in an industry I am interested in. Pursuing my education will give me greater ability to help people through the animals I am passionate about. Horses are something that have brought me a lot of joy and healing throughout my life. I love the idea of being able to share that joy with others, especially people who especially need it. I find so much fulfillment in bringing people up, so the idea of being able to share the joy I find in horses with people who need it, and getting to do what I love as a career is something that makes me feel passionate and excited about the future.

These goals are what drive me to become the best version of myself. I want to pursue my education in order to be successful later in life and accomplish the goals I have. I plan to eventually own a ranch, with a herd of broodmares and a stud. This will give me the ability to raise foals, and after a few years, have a group of 2 year olds to train every year. I want to train high dollar horses, and sell them, eventually creating my own company. I also plan to open an equine therapy facility. I will have several specialty trained, extremely gentle ponies and horses. I will offer regular riding lessons, as well as equine assisted therapy sessions, for people of all ages and backgrounds, people with mental or physical disabilities, children, trauma survivors, individuals with mental health struggles, veterans, or anyone in need of a relaxing, comforting experience. I may hire employees and expand the business if possible, but my main goal with equine therapy is to make horses more accessible to all kinds of people. I hope to make enough money off of training and selling horses that I can have my equine therapy services be affordable or even free. I am very excited about these goals and they push me to work hard and learn as much as I can. I believe that if I work hard, and dedicate the time, these goals are possible.