



AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial

Parent Body of All Chartered Local and Specialty Clubs / One National Judging and Registration System

PO Box 400, Knox, PA 16232 Phone: 814-797-4129 Fax: 814-797-0221 Email: Info@arba.net

YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Valerie Uptagrafft PO Box 803 Chattaroy, WA 99003

Phone: 509-939-7350 Email: arbayouth@gmail.com

ARBA 2026 NATIONAL YOUTH INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS

PURPOSE

To acknowledge excellence among ARBA youth members in attendance at the ARBA National Convention and Show through the evaluation of their knowledge and skills involved in the rabbit and cavy industry.

RULES

- 1 Any ARBA youth member is eligible to compete, however, attendance at the National Convention is required.
- 2 A contestant may enter as many contests that are age-appropriate as they wish.
- 3 The age of a contestant is determined as of the last day of the national convention.
- 4 All contestants must check in, either personally or by an adult representative, by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Contestants will be given approximate times for their contest participation at check-in.

CONTESTS AND DIVISIONS

National Breed Identification Contest

- 1 Divisions: Junior (Ages 5 to 11 years), Intermediate (Ages 12 to 14 years), and Senior (Ages 15 -18 years).
- 2 Contestants will identify 25 animals, both rabbits and cavies, listing the complete breed name as printed in the *ARBA Standard of Perfection*, the showroom variety, whether a 4-class or 6-class breed, and the registration variety of each of the 25 animals.
- 3 No abbreviations are accepted.

National Skill-a-Thon Contest

- 1 Division: Pre-Junior (Ages 5 to 8 years).
- 2 Preregistration is encouraged, but not required for this contest.
- 3 Contestants will participate in various knowledge and skills stations.

National Showmanship Contest

- 1 Division: Junior (Ages 9 to 11 years).
- 2 Contestants will examine and evaluate an animal telling what and why as they go along.
- 3 A contestant may use their own animal or the committee will have some available the first round.
- 4 Call backs will be made for at least the top five at each table. Call backs will be posted by 5:00p.m. Sunday. Contestants will use an animal provided by the committee.

National Judging Contest

- 1 Divisions: Intermediate (Ages 12 to 14 years), and Senior (Ages 15 -18 years).
- 2 Each contestant will be required to place four classes of four animals per class. This is a timed event of 7 minutes per class. The use of the ARBA Standard of Perfection at the judging table is encouraged.
- 3 Judging classes may involve rabbits (including meat classes), cavies, fur and wool.
- 4 Call backs will be made for at least the top five at each table. Call backs will be posted by 5:00p.m. Sunday.

Senior aged contestants who receive a judging call back will be required to give oral reasons on one class of the call back judging animals. Also, rough handling of animals during call backs will receive a penalty of up to 20 points, depending upon the severity of infraction.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

Entry must be made **online** or on the form provided by the ARBA Youth Department. This form is available from your ARBA District Director, the ARBA office, the ARBA Youth Website, and the ARBA Youth Committee. **NO EMAIL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

All online entries, including the uploading of completed forms must be completed by 11:59:59 p.m. EST on September 1, 2026. Mailed entries not using the online portal must be postmarked by August 15, 2026 and should be mailed to the ARBA Youth Chairperson.