

Meet the 2023 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Winners!

The USDF Youth Convention Scholarships provide financial support to young dressage enthusiasts to help defray the expenses associated with attending the annual convention.

Mackenzie Brown



Mackenzie Brown, Post Falls, ID, 17, has been riding horses since before she could walk. Her love of horses continues today. In recent years, Mackenzie has been ranked #1 in the nation in USDF Year End standings for First Level JR/YR (2021), won 2 USDF Regional Champion titles, earned her Bronze Medal with Distinction, and competed and won multiple Top 5 placings at US Dressage Finals on her Hanoverian mare, Romantic Rose. Mackenzie is also an active member of her local Pony Club, having achieved her United States Pony Club H-B and C-2 Dressage certifications.

Mackenzie hopes to become even more involved in her region in the coming years, and to focus on promoting the sport of dressage in person and through online platforms. She would like to attend the USDF National Convention to gain more knowledge and insight as to how the sport runs on a national level, what she can do to help her own region, and to soak in all that she can in the Youth Educational Sessions.

Ryleigh Koch



Ryleigh Koch, Fogelsville, PA, 17, is an aspiring professional and graduated high school in 2023, a year early, so that she could pursue dressage full-time as a working student. She has shown Third level and started her first young horse last year.

As a first-time convention attendee, Ryleigh wants to learn more about and to become more involved in the programs that USDF offers. She plans to share her experience attending the USDF convention on social media and encourage other young riders to get involved in USDF programs. She would love to give back to the programs and people who have helped her along her dressage journey and to help others to get involved!

Marley McCourt



Marley McCourt, Atco, NJ, 16, has been riding dressage for almost ten years. She has been competing at the FEI Junior level with her horse donated through the Dressage4Kids program. In 2022, she competed in the FEI Pony division, which was her introduction to the FEI routes, along with earning her USDF Bronze medal. Her upcoming goals include competing at NAYC.

Marley has been selected to the Region 1 FEI Youth Clinic with George Williams for both 2022 and 2023. She also has competed in the CDI at Dressage at Devon and scored and placed very competitively in decent classes.

Marley is extremely grateful to be the representative of USDF on USEF's youth committee board! She is beyond excited to learn more about this sport, progress through the FEI levels, and become the best rider and teammate she can be.