

Meet the 2013 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Winners!

Supported by funds raised at the annual USDF Youth Programs Advisory Subcommittee Silent Auction, held at the annual convention, these scholarships provide financial support to young dressage enthusiasts to help defray the expenses associated with attending the annual convention.

Madison Bigler



Madison Bigler is seventeen years old and lives in Sandy, Utah. She is an active member of the Utah Dressage Society and a leader in the local Junior/Young Rider program. She regularly volunteers her time at competitions and events for both organizations. Madison has been competing and training in Dressage since she was 9 years old and has successfully taken her first horse, Allie, from Training Level to Third Level and was able to earn her USDF Bronze medal this year. In April, Madison purchased a new young horse named Dega'l. In just a few weeks she began showing her at Training Level and did very well. She is currently pursuing a Veterinarian Technician certification as well as completing her senior year in high school. Madison is a member of both the National Honor Society and the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete Program. She plans to pursue a career as a large animal Veterinarian.

Sydney Collier

Sydney Collier is a fifteen year old from Michigan who recently relocated to Millbrook, New York to continue her dressage training at Woodstock Stables. She is an active member of the United States Para Equestrian Association, and the New England Dressage Association. Sydney is a Grade 1b Para-Equestrian and regularly competes and volunteers her time at competitions. Sydney is the current recipient of the Miss Jane Marple Memorial trophy awarded during Lendon Grey's 2013 Youth Dressage Festival in Saugerties, NY. She is an honor roll student at her high school, as well as a volunteer in Special Education classrooms. One of Sydney's passions is changing people's perceptions of disabilities. She regularly travels to speak to groups and organizations about this subject.



Anna Weniger



Anna Weniger is fifteen years old and lives in Apex, North Carolina. She is a USDF Silver and Bronze Medalist and competes her Connemara, Big Bear's Royal Finnegan, at Third Level. She plans to continue to take him up the levels and aspires to the FEI Junior and Young Rider ranks. Anna is coached by her mother Dawn, a USDF Gold Medalist, and encouraged by her father Andrew, a Silver Medalist. Anna is the co-founder, organizer, and reporter for the Chatham/Durham/Orange County chapter of the NC Dressage and Combined Training Association Junior Club. She is homeschooled and spends her spare time writing fiction.

Photo credit: Veronica Ventress

Taylor Yamamoto

Taylor is seventeen years old and lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. She has recently graduated from high school, and is pursuing a degree in Biology from the University of Hawaii. Taylor volunteers her time at local dressage competitions and at a local health center for the underprivileged. She is the president of the Aloha State Dressage Society (ASDS)'s Junior Young Rider Council and graduated from The Dressage Foundation's Equestrian Fundraising School not long ago. Taylor competed at the Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I levels on her horse Domino. Together, they have won numerous awards from ASDS, USDF, and USEF.

