

Southern Maine Dressage Association (SMDA)

Dressage Grant Eligibility

Overview: The SMDA is a non-profit club whose aim is to advance dressage in southern Maine. Up until now, SMDA has supported education and advancement of the sport by sponsoring horse shows and riding clinics. Because there are many other opportunities to advance the sport of dressage in southern Maine, SMDA will begin offering an annual grant of up to \$1000.00 per application, beginning in 2010.

The amount awarded will depend on availability of club funds and number of compelling applications. The club may choose to award multiple applicants with lower award amounts, totaling \$1000.00 or up to the amount of funding the club has available.

Grant information: The SMDA dressage grant is designed to advance the sport of dressage in southern Maine. This includes but is not limited to encouraging individual members to reach a higher performance goal, improving the availability or quality of facilities for club use, or working toward improving the lives of people or horses involved in the sport of dressage.

Some examples of goals that would be considered include:

1. An individual rider looking to achieve a higher goal like qualifying for the USDF Young Rider's Championship or a USDF medal.
2. An individual looking for sponsorship to gain certification as a dressage judge.
3. Funding to help care for dressage horses in need [due to incidents like abuse, neglect, death of the horse(s)' owner, etc.]
4. Funding for improvements to the Hollis Horse Park or other facility used by the club.

Rules and guidelines: To qualify for these funds, the following rules apply:

1. The applicant must be current SMDA member.
2. The applicant must create a plan with scheduled event(s) that will help the applicant or club reach a specific goal. The plan, goal, and timeline must be part of the submission.
3. The applicant must complete the template provided and submit it to the SMDA board for evaluation.
4. The applicant must write a summary of the event or results achieved. This summary must be completed before the end of the year in which funding was awarded and will be included in a subsequent SMDA newsletter and posted on the SMDA website.

5. If for any reason the applicant cannot complete the plan, all unused funds should be returned to SMDA. These funds will be used for another applicant, if possible within the same calendar year.
6. Applicants must show a commitment to volunteering for SMDA club events. You must have either volunteered to help at an SMDA event or plan to volunteer in the calendar year in which the grant is awarded.
 - a. Volunteer experience will be a positive factor in decisions for granting funds. A history of volunteering could be especially important when there are many applicants with compelling and worthy requests.

Deadlines and selection process:

1. All applications must be completed using the approved form.
2. Opening day for applications is January 1st and all applications must be received by March 15th to be considered for funding in that calendar year.*
3. The SMDA board will nominate a grant subcommittee to evaluate all submissions.
4. The grant subcommittee will evaluate and decide on the most compelling and worthy applications by March 31st.
5. Applicants will be notified by email on April 1st and funds will be transferred by April 15th.

* If an opportunity arises after March 15th, an application may be submitted to the SMDA board at any time within the calendar year. If the SMDA has funds available and the application is compelling, a special grant may be awarded.