**Scholarship Program for Arkansas Valley Dressage Assoc.**

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Contact:

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**Purpose of the Scholarship Program for AVDA:**

The purpose of the program is to provide financial aid to AVDA members to advance their dressage education and/or skills in classical or western dressage.

Additionally, the program will work to:

\*Raise funds to increase the scholarship fund each year

\*Increase the amount awarded each year if possible

\*Garner scholarship support so that the program fulfills its purpose

**Basis for the AVDA Scholarship Program**

Scholarships are granted on the basis of financial need and volunteering.

Scholarship applicants must complete at a minimum of 4 hours of volunteering for AVDA sponsored events in the year prior to the scholarship year for which they are applying for the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must complete an additional 4 hours of volunteering at AVDA sponsored events during the year in which they received the scholarship. AVDA sponsored events include clinics, shows, writing educational articles for the AVDA newsletter.

Volunteer hours must be documented by a volunteer committee chairperson.

Recipients will receive the full award funds once they have completed the 4 hours of volunteer time in the year of the award and have utilized their award funds for the educational activities detailed in their application. Additionally, scholarship recipients will need to write an article and submit a photo to the AVDA newsletter editor. All requirements should be fulfilled by Nov. 30th of the award year.

Funds will be issued as follows: ⅔ of the scholarship fund will be issued in January of the scholarship award. Once the recipient has fulfilled all obligations, the remaining ⅓ of the funds will be issued.

**Application Requirements**

Applicants should read and understand the requirements for the scholarship for which they are applying. The scholarship application form is available on the AVDA website or by email from the scholarship chairperson, Sarah Murphy. Email address is jsflygirl@gmail.com.

An applicant must be a current member of RMDS/AVDA for the year of the scholarship.

\*An applicant must submit to the scholarship chairperson the following information:

\*Completed and signed AVDA scholarship application

\*A detailed activity plan to include at least one educational riding event. Acceptable training activities: clinics, lessons with trainers other than the applicants “normal,regular” trainer, immersion programs. The following are NOT acceptable training plans: shows, online education, lessons with “normal/regular” trainer.

\*One letter of reference: letter can be from “normal/regular” trainer, a known AVDA member, a former clinician, a person who can verify the applicant’s commitment to the sport of dressage.

\*All required waivers, signed if applicable: applicant, parent/guardian, horse owner, etc.

\*A projected budget for the activity plan

\*Proof of volunteering at AVDA events (year prior to scholarship award)

\*If the applicant is a minor, the application must be signed by one parent or legal guardian.

**Scholarship Categories**

The AVDA Scholarship Program shall award the following scholarships:

\*The Jenny Wegener/Loki /Adult Amateur Scholarship. This is awarded to an adult amateur who is riding at any level of classical or western dressage.

\*The Margaret A Murphy/Junior Young Rider Scholarship. This is awarded to a rider who is 21 years old or younger, riding in classical or western dressage.

**Obligations of Scholarship Recipients**

Scholarship awards may be used for activities that involve the horse and rider that will make a positive impact on the pair’s level understanding of the principles of dressage and general horsemanship and/or advance their level of competition achievement. (Refer to Application Requirements in this policy.)

\*Scholarship awards must be used in pursuit of dressage related activities as outlined in the recipients application.

\*At the end of the scholarship year, the recipients shall write an article and submit a picture for the AVDA newsletter.

\*Scholarship recipients are encouraged to share their knowledge and experience gained from the scholarship award. Examples include writing additional articles for AVDA or RMDS, speaking at AVDA meetings or clinics.

\*Recipients must communicate any changes to the planned scholarship activities to the Scholarship Chair.

**Scholarship Application Period and Award Decisions**

Scholarship applications will be accepted between Oct. 1 and Nov.1 of each year.

The Scholarship Chair will be available to assist applicants with the application requirements and process.

The Scholarship Chair will review each application for completeness and compliance with the Scholarship Program.

Late applications will not be considered.

The Scholarship Chair and AVDA Executive Board will review all applications and make decisions on recipients.

Recipients will be announced at the AVDA Awards Banquet in December as well as in the AVDA January newsletter.

**Scholarship Funding**

Each year at an AVDA Executive Board meeting (TBD), the Board will determine the amount of each scholarship for the coming year.

For the 2024 year, each of the two scholarships shall be set at $200.

The scholarship amount allocated each year will be added to the yearly budget as a line item. For the 2024 year, the total amount will be $400.

The scholarship monies will be kept in the Savings account at Bank of the San Juans. Accounting detail on the Savings account bank statement will separate “savings” money from “scholarship” money. Accounting detail will be managed by the AVDA treasurer.

A check will be issued to each of the scholarship recipients. Money from the Savings account will be moved to the Checking 1 account at Bank of the San Juans.

**Administration of the AVDA Scholarship Program**

The Scholarship Chair and AVDA Executive Board will review the Scholarship Program each year and propose any changes needed.

The Scholarship Chair will maintain the policies of the Program in written form, will maintain the Scholarship application and submit both to the AVDA webmaster.

The Scholarship Chair will maintain a record of all Program activity (applications, written communication of any kind, etc), and will maintain a record of applicants and recipients.

The Scholarship Chair will assist applicants and recipients as needed.

**Other Duties of the Scholarship Chair**

Neither the Scholarship Chair nor the AVDA Executive Board may be granted any scholarship while they serve in those roles.

Privacy of applicants and recipients will be maintained by the Scholarship Chair and will be shared with only the AVDA President when needed.

The Scholarship Chair and AVDA Executive Board must recuse themselves from voting on any particular application if they have some interest or bias with regard to that applicant.