

Meet the 2018 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.

Ellanor Boehning



Ellanor Boehning, San Diego, CA, 13, is a member of the San Diego Chapter of the California Dressage Society. Ellanor is a seventh grader at Maranatha Christian Schools and is in FCA, concert band, and was elected to ASB (student government). Prior to moving to California in January of 2018, she was an active member of the Indiana Dressage Society as both a competitor and a volunteer within the GMO. Ellanor grew up on her family's farm in central Indiana and began competing in dressage at the age of 6. Early highlights for her include 2013 Youth Dressage Festival Team and Individual Division winner in Saugerties NY. Ellanor and her "Golden Pony" Kabam were the USEF Training Level Junior Silver Stirrup Champions in 2015. Their partnership has progressed from Training Level through the FEI Pony Division, where they recently won the 2018 Festival of Champions FEI Pony Division. Ellanor and Kabam are currently training with Anna Buffini at Wildflower Ranch in Encinitas, CA and looking forward to the upcoming winter show season in California. It is Ellanor's first USDF Convention and she is excited to have the opportunity to grow her knowledge of youth programs offered by USDF, as well as learn new ways she can contribute and give back to the sport of dressage.

(Photo courtesy of Susan J Stickle Photography)

Genevieve Rohner, Park City, UT, 10, is a triplet born at 28 weeks. As a premature infant, her underdeveloped neurological system led to a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration Disorder, and incorrectly positioned right leg bones. One of her brothers had a stroke at birth and also has Cerebral Palsy. At four years old, he was in a Hippotherapy clinical trial with Ride-On Therapeutic Horsemanship, a para-dressage Center of Excellence. Genevieve decided to try riding and fell in love. Progressing from Hippotherapy to Therapeutic riding to Para-dressage, she discovered not only a love of horses, but a love of competing. The connection between horse and rider provides a sense of calmness for her. She has developed into an accomplished rider under the tutelage of Megan McQueeney and Sydni Nusink. At 10 years old and officially classified as a Grade V rider, Genevieve is focused and passionate about being a competitive para equestrian and is always looking for more equine knowledge. 2018 was her first year in rated shows. While training on one horse in Utah and competing on another in California, she qualified for Junior Championships, CDS Regionals, and USDF Regionals at Training Level, placing 5th overall in all events.

Genevieve Rohner



Jouelle Kimura



Jouelle Kimura, Folsom, CA, 16, has been riding dressage for four years. Her equestrian journey started when she was 12 years old, when she met her schoolmate's mother, a dressage trainer in the Arabian circuit. Jouelle had wanted to ride for a long time, but she was very green and didn't know what dressage was or what Arabians were. All she knew was that she wanted to ride, and since the trainer was a parent from school and there were no jumps involved, she figured her mom would be okay with the arrangement. Unfortunately, her mom was still not very keen on her riding. So, after pestering her mom for a while, she decided to ask her dad instead and he contacted the trainer and set up her first lesson. The rest is history and Jouelle still loves riding as much as the day she first got on a horse. Jouelle is not with her first trainer anymore, but will always be grateful to her for the riding basics she taught her. Currently, she is preparing to compete at Second Level with the goal of earning her USDF Bronze Medal. She does not currently own a horse but feels very lucky to be able to lease horses and ride other people's horses at her training barn. She feels very lucky to have a good support system of parents, an amazing trainer, horses, and friends. She is very excited for this opportunity and would like to thank USDF for awarding her the Youth Convention Scholarship.

Sofia Ireland, Berwyn, PA, 18, developed her passion for dressage at her grandparent's farm, The Dressage Center in East Fallowfield, PA. She joined the Radnor Hunt Pony Club at nine and soon after, joined the Delaware Valley Combined Training Association. Now a senior at Conestoga High School, Sofia has earned a high school letter every year in the USEF Equestrian Athlete High School Lettering Program. Additionally, she has earned a pin in the USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program for the last two years and is currently working towards earning her third. Sofia trains with Timothy Mellott and her grandmother, CharAn Ireland at The Dressage Center and has progressed from First to Fourth Level in two years on her horse, Salon. In 2017, Sofia won the Colonel Bengt Ljungquist Memorial Championship at Second Level in the Jr/YR Division. In 2017 and 2018, she qualified for the Region 1 Championships at Second & Third Levels respectively. In 2018, Sofia earned her USDF Bronze Medal and her Lifeguarding Certificate. When not riding, Sofia is sending out applications for college, babysitting, and volunteering at the Devon Horse Show, her church, and local DVCTA and Pony Club shows.

(Photo courtesy of PicsofYou.com)

Sofia Ireland



Santina Hackett



Santina Hackett, Aubrey, TX, 13, is certified as a C-1 Dressage in Silver Stirrups Pony Club of the Red River Region. Santina is known as Tia to everyone she meets. Tia's partner is a Pony of the Americas named Robin Hood, also known as "Dreamer". As a heart patient of Children's Medical Center Dallas, Tia works hard to bring awareness of Congenital Heart Defects and pushes everyone with a dream to work towards their goals! Tia and Dreamer are working on their Second Level scores towards their USDF Bronze Medal and are planning to make their FEI Childrens debut in the spring, training under Julie Madriguera (r) at LTR Dressage in Pilot Point, Texas. Tia is recruiting a competitive Dressage team within the USPC Red River Region to compete at USPC Festival & Championships in 2020 at the Kentucky Horse Park. Tia and Dreamer were the First Level Musical Freestyle Reserve Champions at National Dressage Pony Cup in July 2018. Tia was one of 31 USDF members to earn the USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin in 2018. Tia is an active member of Texas 4-H as an officer in the Argyle 4-H Club and secondary member of Silver Saddle 4-H Club, where she competes in Hippology and Horse Bowl. Tia enjoys her 4-H Sewing and Entrepreneurship Projects, creating *Hackett Dressage*, a youth dressage clothing line of her own. Tia attends Denton Calvary Academy where she is very active in her house "Abishai". Tia loves participating choir and being able to harmonize with her fellow classmates. Miss Hackett gives glory to God for all of her blessings!