

ODS Youth Scholarship

The Ohio Dressage Society establishes a Youth Scholarship Fund to encourage the serious pursuit of a career in the art of dressage. The purpose of the fund is to promote a life-long interest in and passion for the horse, the sport of dressage and / or to help young equestrians to pursue a career devoted to dressage.

Any rider under the age of 21 (as of January 1 of the year the scholarship is to be awarded) in Ohio who has been a member of ODS for at least one year may apply to the Ohio Dressage Society for monetary assistance to further their knowledge and skills in dressage. The funds may also be used for opportunities such as a national or international sponsored opportunity, a horse related course at an approved university or college, or a USDF or USEF clinic, symposium, or NAYR Qualifier.

A maximum of \$1,000 may be awarded to any one individual. At the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and depending on the availability of funds, one or more scholarships may be given each year. Funds may be given to one person or divided among those youth applying, if all are deemed worthy of receiving monetary assistance. The Scholarship does not have to be awarded if none of the applicants or their intended uses are considered appropriate.

Any interested applicant must apply for the ODS Youth Scholarship by January 15th of the year it is to be awarded. The application/letter should be sent to the ODS Youth Scholarship Committee and should contain the following:

- A statement explaining why the youth feels they should be chosen;
- A brief resume of the youth's equestrian related experiences, including two letter of recommendation;
- The intended use of the scholarship if awarded;
- A budget showing how the money will be spent; and
- How the awarding of the scholarship to the recipient will benefit the Ohio Dressage Society.

The Scholarship Recipient will give a report to the Ohio Dressage Society during the ODS Awards Banquet the year following the Scholarship's

awarding. The report should explain the use/benefits they have received due to the Scholarship and give a brief accounting of expenditures.

The Scholarship will be awarded by the ODS Scholarship Committee consisting of the the Youth Chairman (Committee Chair) and two other members of the society in good standing. The Scholarship Committee will meet and review any and all application letters and interview the candidates if necessary. The decision of the Committee will be final and will be announced no later than the last day of February.

Awarding of the Scholarship will be based on the following: submitted application; appropriateness of goals and intended use of funds; equine experience; financial need; involvement in ODS activities (meetings, clinics, shows, member activities, etc.); involvement in the local "dressage community"; and if previous recipient of the scholarship, how the funds were used and if the recipient fulfilled their obligation to ODS.

Revision Approved 2/16/09 by ODS Board of Directors