

LVDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM- Mission Statement and Guidelines

Scholarship Program:

The Lehigh Valley Dressage Association (LVDA) is dedicated to promoting a high standard of the sport of dressage through quality education provided to the interested general public and the membership in the form of clinics, seminars, and dressage shows along with the promotion of outstanding horsemanship and proper equine management.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the LVDA Scholarship Program is to provide educational and riding opportunities to members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to and/or excellence in the sport of dressage, as well as, service within LVDA. The committee seeks qualified members to take advantage of specific opportunities for advancement with the understanding that the membership and the sport will benefit as a result of the knowledge and experience gained.

This program exists to further develop dressage education and riding.

Scholarships are awarded once a year in the categories of education and riding.

- Riding
- Education

Deadlines for receipt of applications are ***June 30th, of the current year.***

Applicants must be LVDA members for a minimum of 2 consecutive years, US citizens or permanent US residents holding a Green Card and members in good standing (dues paid). To request funding, all LVDA members may apply under the Riding or Education Category.

Scholarships must be used to participate in programs that include, but are not limited to: seminars, workshops, clinics, training programs, instructor certification programs, USDF symposiums/conventions, riding camp, or a show of regional or national competition.

Programs for which the funding is requested must have a stated objective, must be for the specific purpose of advancing the member's skills/education or individual's standing in the dressage community, and must have clear beginning and end dates.

Process details:

- 1) A LVDA member may complete a scholarship application at any time of the year by contacting the Scholarship Chairman or by visiting:
www.LVDA.org/lvdacontact.html.
- 2) The scholarship is not to be awarded to the same applicant for 2 consecutive years.
- 3) Scholarships are awarded once a year in August at the Recognized Competition. Completed applications must be received by June 30, of the current year. Completed applications must be accompanied by two recommendations (two personal or two from those who can attest to your riding, teaching, and/or

training abilities). If the due date comes and an application is not complete or arrives late, it cannot be considered for that allocation date and will be returned to the applicant. (This is to be fair to other applicants).

4) The Scholarship Committee (consisting of 3-7 members), meets to review all applications and allocate scholarships depending upon availability of funds, qualifications of applicants, etc.

5) The Committee screens each application with a uniform set of criteria, eliminating the possibility of subjective selection or favoritism. While the criteria are slightly different for each category, they generally include such benchmarks as Length of LVDA Membership, Volunteer History, Other Scholarships Received, Goal of Program, Competition & Riding History, Previous Awards and Recognition, Benefit to LVDA's Membership, Timeliness of Goal, Credibility and Reputation, Ambassadorship and Effect on Professional Contribution/Educational Purpose. Committee members may apply; however, they will be excluded from the voting process.

6) Current **MAXIMUM** suggested allotments for Scholarships per applicant are as follows: EDUCATION/\$250.00 and RIDING/\$250.00. It is hoped that in any given year, a mixture of applications would be received and awarded, although there are years when this may not be possible due to lack of qualified applicants or the lack of funds.

7) **All decisions made by the Scholarship Committee are final.** The Scholarship Chairman will notify all applicants of the outcome. Those who have been awarded scholarships are mailed a "Letter of Acceptance" that is a simple contract between the member and LVDA that outlines where, when and how the money will be used, as well as, what the applicant is willing to do for LVDA in return. Some ways that members can give back for their scholarship assistance are giving clinics, judging, writing an article for the LVDA newsletter, or organizing a clinic or a fundraising event for Scholarships. The Letter of Agreement also instructs the recipient to provide receipts to the Treasurer for all of his/her expenses associated with the scholarship. It also explains that if for some reason the recipient does not complete the program for which the award was made with-in 1 year, any unused portion of the funds must be returned. However, If for some reason (horse/rider injury, etc.) the member will not be able to use this scholarship in the year awarded, the member must inform the Scholarship Chairman to obtain permission to roll the scholarship into the next calendar year.

Please return the completed Scholarship Application, Recommendations and Volunteer Form by **June 30** to the Scholarship Coordinator: <http://www.lvda.org/lvdacontact.html>.

Thank you for your interest in the LVDA Scholarships!