

## **Catherine Kwasnik's Scholarship Report for the Robert Dover Clinic**

Thanks to the Dressage4Kids Scholarship Program, I was able to ride with Robert Dover in a two day clinic this summer. Robert really helped me in preparation for the Youth Dressage Festival. We mainly focused on my position. I sometimes lean forward when riding which isn't good. But from day one, to day two, there was a huge difference in my position. Toward the end of my lesson the first day, I started to lean back and I felt a huge difference in how Harley was moving. He was moving more freely and more consistent. He sat more on his hind end and I realized that I had to ride leaning back and Harley would move better and be more consistent.

I was watching a few of the videos from Day 1. I could see a difference from the beginning of the lesson to the end. On the second day, I went back and Robert said he saw a big improvement in me, that I was leaning back and that there was more consistency between Harley and I.

On Day 2, Robert and I worked on keeping Harley more consistent, mainly in the canter. In Day 1, Harley was cantering above the bit, and it was very hard for me to try and get him on the bit as he is just a difficult horse to work on the canter with. I would be able to get him on the bit and then I would lose it. The second day I then realized that I needed to keep him cantering with my seat and legs, but also use a half halt to keep him round.

Looking back, I can tell that there was a difference in Harley and I between the first day and the second day of the clinic. Everything that Robert worked on with me definitely helped me at the Youth Dressage Festival and even today.

A big thank you to Lendon Gray and Dressage4Kids for giving me the opportunity to ride with Robert Dover. I would also like to thank Robert himself for such an amazing lesson. I cannot wait to continue to use everything I learned to continue to strive for more consistency and for my goal of successfully showing First Level with Harley next year. Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Catherine Kwasnik

## **Catherine Kwasnik's Scholarship Report for the Lendon Gray Clinic**

Thanks to the D4K Scholarship, I was able to ride in a clinic with Lendon Gray. We worked on getting Harley off my leg effectively with keeping a quiet leg. We worked on the canter and it was just a simple fix. I just had to put more weight down in my heels. It was easy to feel a difference in my position. Then, we started working on leg yields. After a while Harley decided that we should do a half pass.

We also worked on a little bit of turn on the forehand and turn on the haunches. It was so much fun to learn the start to the walk pirouette. I was able to learn so much in this lesson. Lendon saw a huge improvement in Harley as a horse and in myself as a rider. After that lesson, I keep Lendon's voice in my head to help correct my mistakes. I noticed a difference in the canter just from keeping my leg quiet and only using it when necessary.

Thank you so much to Lendon and Dressage4Kids. Thank you so much for everything you do and all your effort! Harley and I had a great lesson. We cannot wait until next time! Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Catherine Kwasnik