

Dear Dressage4kids Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for picking me as one of the riders to be given this award. I used the money to go to Riding Right Farm's 3 day Boot Camp. The boot camp helps me and my horse mentally and physically prepare to do our best at D4K. On the first day of Boot Camp (the monday before the show) we had a balamo lesson with Hollie McNeil to loosen up us riders before we officially started our day. After balamo us riders would look at the premade schedule made by Hollie McNeil to see what we would be doing next. I was scheduled for a small group equitation class with Hollie McNeil throwing out small things that us riders needed to improve on with our position. After the hour group equitation class I was scheduled to study with Julie Crosier. Julie would help us with making note cards and writing down important notes that were in the book. At the end of the day Hollie would talk to us about show prep and how to control our anxiety so that our horses don't get stressed.

On Tuesday we started the day off with yoga. After yoga I was scheduled to ride with Gail Kapiloff in an hour private lesson. I rode the dressage test (training 3) at first then she asked me what I thought about it, then she told me some things that I rode well and some things that I could improve on. After we talked she had me ride some exercises that helped me improve on my one loops and going into the corners deeper before turning onto the centerline. After my ride with Gail we ate lunch and the schedule said that I was to study for the rest of the evening until it was time to meet all together at the end. When it was time for the team to get together Hollie read to us a description of the professional Eva that was coming to loosen up our horses by giving them massages and for some of us riders to get a massage also.

On Wednesday we started the day out by doing Pilates with a professional. After Pilates I was assigned along with a group of others to go and have a barn management session held by Nicole Wilbur. She asked us questions of what we would do if our horses had symptoms of colic and what we would do if our horses are lame etc. She also asked us if we knew how to take temperature, respiration, and the pulse. She showed us how to polo wrap our horses legs properly. After barn management I was assigned to cleaning up my horse on the schedule. This involves Clipping feet, trimming manes etc. After cleaning up my horse I ate lunch. Then I was scheduled to study with Julie for practice test that she made for us the next day.

On the last day I was scheduled to start the day off with riding in a big group with Hollie or my horse and myself to get used to warming up with limited space, while having limited time to get everything that I would want to get done at D4K. After riding with Hollie in a big group I gave my horse a bath. Then I my horse was scheduled to get a massage with Eva. The massage helped my horse in more ways than one, Eva told me that he was very tight in the back, and that the left side of his pole was very tight which would explain why my horse has a hard time giving flexion tracking to the right. You could tell that my horse felt very relaxed and enjoyed the massage because he was falling asleep and his head immediately dropped to the ground when his back was loosened up. I was then scheduled to take the practice test that Julie made for both of the books that we had to read and reviewed the answers that I got wrong. Then I ate lunch, and made my stall card for stabling. I was then scheduled to start cleaning my tack for the rest of the evening.

Going to boot camp with the rest of my dressage team helped in more ways than one I scored 9th place individually in my division and my team won a blue ribbon medal. I am very thankful for receiving the scholarship award that you give out.

- Jenna Wilbur