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Dressage 4 Kids

I had an amazing learning experience on how I can better myself and my pony in dressage this past weekend. In this experience, I took my horse Minnie to our very first team clinic in Redlands, California to meet Lendon Gray on November sixth through the seventh. There were so many lectures and my lessons were very informational. When I got home after my first day at the clinic, I analyzed my videos and saw what I needed to work on. Also, I reread all of my notes from Lendon Gray's lectures. This educational experience wasn't just for me but for my teammate Minnie.

On Saturday morning, I learned that I needed to work more on my centerline because I always turned too late when making it down the letter C. Then my diagonals were bad because I always forgot to check them when I'm trotting. I really struggled with these two things because no one taught me how to really focus on this when riding. Lendon really helped me to remember all of these techniques. She even helped me to move forward a lot more at the walk, trot, and even the canter. This helped me and Minnie to set the foundation of our dressage training. One really important thing I learned during these lectures was if I don't listen to what my horse is telling me, I can seriously injure her. An example of this is when she talked about warming up your horse. She said that is the best time to check for soundness issues and to make sure you're warmed up properly.

My horse and I are very young and new to the dressage world. This clinic has really helped us to start out with our best foot forward. Both of us now have better tools to help us succeed at the level we are trying to compete next year. For one, turning early to head to the centerline would benefit us to not lose any unnecessary points. She also taught us how to do a perfect twenty meter circle. I learned to have a softer connection with Minnie's mouth. The softer connection helps me not to jerk on her mouth so we can have more supple movements. She explains how there are two ways to halt in order to not jerk on her mouth. The first one is called prompt and the second one is called gradual. Lastly, I even learned how to use polo wraps on Minnie and braid her hair during one of the lectures a team member gave. Even though Lendon and I practiced my basics, it gave us the best foundation to succeed.

To conclude, Lendon talked about the show that she went to with her Connemara cross pony called Seldom Seen which had a big impact on me. She said her horse was small and everyone else had their big warmbloods. She told herself that she did not belong there. I felt like that last lecture applied to me a lot because at most shows that I go to that is exactly how I feel. Hearing this made me realize that I can make it to the top with my pony. I learned a humongous amount of information at the Lendon Gray Clinic. Lastly, I want to say thank you so much for the scholarship to be able to attend the clinic. I am very grateful.