

My name is Annika Veverka Jannusch, and I am a 16-year-old dressage rider from Walla Walla, Washington. I have been riding for four years, exploring various disciplines including western pleasure, equitation, hunt seat, English equitation, open shows, and jumping, before discovering that dressage is my true passion. I currently ride Training through First Level with my Arabian mare, Kapture My Heart. Together, we earned the 2023 AHBAO (Arabian Horse Breeders Association of Oregon) Youth Reserve Champion title and were named Oregon Family Equestrian Association New Member of the Year. I am also a member of the WAHSET District 5 team, where I compete in dressage while preparing for the 2025 show season.

Over the past year, my family has faced financial challenges, which have made consistent access to training difficult. Receiving the D4K Scholarship has been a tremendous gift, allowing me to continue my education and development as a young dressage rider and aspiring professional. With this scholarship, I've been able to attend regular lessons at WoW with Kenton Wright in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, as well as participate in clinics and other educational opportunities.

Beyond the lessons, this scholarship has also opened doors to invaluable connections within the dressage community, further enriching my journey. In the coming months, Kapture and I plan to continue refining our connection, suppleness, and fluidity as we prepare for Training Level Test 2 and Test 3 at USDF Region 6 shows. We also aim to compete at the Arabian Sport Horse Regionals at DevonWood Equestrian Center.

I am deeply grateful to Dressage 4 Kids for their support, which has not only advanced my skills but also helped me grow as a person. This experience has inspired me to continue working hard and give back to the dressage community in the future.

