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Dressage4Kids Calendar

<https://dressage4kids.org/news-events/event-calendar.html>

November

November 2-3 D4K TEAM Clinic at Faith Haven Stables in North East, Pennsylvania

November 16-17 D4K TEAM Clinic with Lilo Fore at Twinwood Equestrian Center in Fulshear, Texas

December

December 7-8 D4K TEAM Clinic at Mills Farm in Opelousas, Louisiana

December 14-15 D4K TEAM Clinic at The Dressage Academy at Synergy Stables in Colts Neck, NJ

January

January 2 D4K Winter Intensive Training Program Begins

January 20 D4K Training4Teaching Panel Discussion

Working Student Positions Open

Lendon knows of several working student opportunities in Wellington, Florida. Anyone interested should contact Lendon at graydressage@gmail.com.

Thank you to TEAM Clinic Hosts!

Thank you to all the owners and organizers who hosted TEAM clinics in 2024!

To learn more about the TEAM Program, go to:
<https://dressage4kids.org/programs/team-program.html>

If you are interested in hosting a TEAM Clinic in 2025, please contact Mary at
d4k.org@gmail.com.

Cadence Ranch
Hutto, Texas
Owner: Christine Calao
Organizer: Marsha Lewis

Highclere Farm
Burlington, North Carolina
Owner: Nicole Hamilton
Organizer: Ali Perkins-LaTorre

Noble Steed
Canton, Georgia
Owner: Chantell Noble
Organizer: Liz Molloy

Euphoria Stables
Starke, Florida
Owner/Organizer:
Meridith Babnick

Hilltop Farm
Colora, Maryland
Owner: Jane MacElree
Organizer: Natalie DiBerardinis

Rancho Santa Fe
Bloomington, Michigan
Owner/Organizer: Maria Selner

Faith Haven Stables
North East, Pennsylvania
Owner/Organizer: Liz Sambor

Kellenbrook Farms
Gig Harbor, Washington
Owners: Kelly Burris and
Brook Martz
Organizer: Olivia Martz

Riding Right Farm
Buskirk, New York
Owner/Organizer: Hollie McNeil

Faith Hill Farm
East Greenwich, Rhode Island
Owner: Pam Maloof
Organizer: Lara Sloan

Meadowbrook Farm
Naples, Maine
Owners: Jennifer & Mike Green
Organizer: Matt Baillargeon

The Dressage Academy
at Synergy Stables
Colts Neck, New Jersey
Owner: Michael Fazio
Organizers: Debbie and Nicole
DelGiorno

Flow Equestrian Center
Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Owner: Tracy Browne
Organizer: Jennifer Cooper

Mills Farm
Opelousas, Louisiana
Owner/Organizer:
Stephanie Mills

Twinwood Equestrian Center
Fulshear, Texas
Organizer: Jessica Fan

Georgia Int'l Horse Park
Conyers, Georgia
Organizer: Liz Molloy

Whispering Miracle's Equestrian
Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Owner/Organizer:
Krystal Lazares-Scaretta

Meet Youth Dressage Festival Competitor Bella Perkins

Bella Perkins was the winner of the Training Level Division Ages 17-25 with Wow Factor.

Q: How many years have you competed at YDF?

Bella: This was my 10th year competing at YDF!

Q: What was your favorite part about YDF this year?

Bella: My favorite part was the parade of teams. It's always so fun to be with my team.

Q: What was your reaction when you found out you were Division Champion?

Bella: I was surprised because the mare I brought this year is fairly new to us and is not the easiest to ride. I didn't expect to do as well as we did!

Q: What are your future riding goals/plans?

Bella: At the moment, I am rehabbing my D4K horse, and then I hope to compete at Fourth Level with him next year. It would be amazing to get my USDF Silver Medal in the next couple years.

Q: Are you planning on returning to YDF next year?

Bella: Of course!

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your horse?

Bella: The mare I brought this year is named Wonder (Wow Factor). She is a 9 year old Hanoverian who was a successful hunter jumper until she was 5. She then had severe laminitis and they found a huge tumor almost completely blocking her nasal canal. Exploratory surgery was done and she miraculously recovered. Her owner, Karen Crandall, got her just over a year ago. She is truly a "wonder" and is starting to thrive in her new career.

Q: Are there any funny quirks about your horse?

Bella: She can be quite sensitive to being touched on her face due to her surgery, but once she trusts you, she loves to have her face rubbed.

Q: What's your horse's favorite treat?

Bella: Anything but bananas!

Q: Does your horse have a favorite class at YDF?

Bella: She was a demo horse for the Sport Horse Conformation class, and I think she liked showing off in that!

Q: What's your horse's favorite dressage movement to perform?

Bella: I think halting is her favorite!

Q: What was your team like this year? Any favorite team moments?

Bella: Our team seems to get better every year. Everyone was so supportive and helpful towards our new teammates. My favorite moments were actually when we were stuck in the barn during the storms and we were all just talking and making the best of it.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Bella: There were many times this year that I thought I wasn't going to be able to compete at all for various reasons. I'm just so glad that everything worked out and I was able to have yet another amazing experience at YDF! Thank you to everyone that made it possible. Thank you to my mom for always supporting my riding career and coming to every show. Thank you to my trainer for the last 10 years and counting, Hollie McNeil. Thank you to Wonder's owner, Karen, for allowing me to show her amazing horse this year. Thank you to Lendon and everyone at Dressage4Kids for all the shows, clinics, and experiences over the last 10 years. And of course thanks to my wonderful D4K horse, Rhapsody.

Congratulations, Bella!



Dressage4Kids Winter Intensive Training Program - Rider Spotlight

For more information about the Dressage4Kids Winter Intensive Training Program, go to:
<https://dressage4kids.org/programs/winter-intensive-training-program.html>



Nicole Wilbur

“I will forever be grateful for the WIT program! WIT provided many educational opportunities along with wonderful instruction everyday. I am the rider and trainer I am today with the help of Lendon and this program.”

WIT Participant 2021



Video Tips

Need to take a riding video for an application? Check out these tips:
<https://dressage4kids.org/news-events/d4k-video-tips.html>

Save the Date!

D4K Training4Teaching Panel Discussion!

Dressage4Kids will host a special D4K Training4Teaching Panel Discussion on Monday, January 20th in the evening following the USDF FEI Trainers Conference.

Where: Wellington, Florida

When: January 20, 2025

Stay tuned for more details!



Save the Date!

D4K UP at Tufts Equine Center!

Dressage4Kids and the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University are pleased to present a special Open House with lectures, presentations, and hands-on activities.

When: April 5, 2025

Where: Tufts Equine Center, Agnes Varis Campus Center and Auditorium, 5 Jumbo's Path, North Grafton, MA

Stay tuned for more details!



USDF Youth Awards

USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Rider Awards: to recognize the achievements in Dressage Seat Equitation for junior/young riders, adult amateurs and professionals. Please visit the Rider Awards section of the [USDF Member Guide](#) for more information.

USDF Shining Star Awards: The Shining Star Award recognizes a particular act of sportsmanship. Anyone other than the nominee's parent may nominate a youth for this award.

Congratulations to 2024 recipients!

Ella Austino*
Ryleigh Koch*
Marley McCourt*
Genevieve Oliver*

*denotes Dressage4Kids participant

[Click here for more information about the USDF Shining Star Award.](#)

USDF Ravel Education Grants: Created by the USDF National Youth Programs Committee in partnership with Akiko Yamazaki, Ravel's owner, the Ravel Education Grants were developed as part of the current USDF Shining Star Award program. This program is designed to recognize the most outstanding displays of sportsmanship among USDF youth and is based on the National Youth Programs Committee's definition of good sportsmanship, qualities Ravel displayed throughout his career: Courage, Respect,

Perseverance, and Responsibility.

[Click here for more information about the USDF Ravel Educations Grants.](#)

USDF Dressage Spirit Award : This award recognizes USDF youth members who have made significant contributions to their local equestrian communities and who promote the sport of dressage in a variety of ways.

Congratulations to 2024 recipients!

Harper Kane*
Hayden Kane*
Finley Peterson*
Trinity Schatzel*
Sophie Shohet*

*denotes Dressage4Kids participant

[Click here for more information about the USDF Dressage Spirit Award.](#)

Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program : The USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of youth in the dressage community at all levels.

Congratulations to 2024 recipients!

Lauren Anderson*
Kaylin Bowman*
Piper Hill*
Harper Kane*
Hayden Kane*
Walker Lefkowitz*
Genevieve Morehead*
Adalynn Nelson*
Finley Peterson*
Natalie Porto*
Adeline Shelton*
Felicity Thunes*

*denotes Dressage4Kids participant

[Click here for more information about the USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program.](#)

USDF Nomination for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award : The USEF Youth Sportsman's Award was designed to develop leaders in the equine industry from all breeds and disciplines. Individuals 17 or younger, as of December 1 of the current competition year, who are active members in good standing with US Equestrian and USDF are eligible to apply. Each year, USDF seeks candidates who demonstrate an ongoing commitment and dedication to both USDF and USEF through their promotion of the horse. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information about USDF Youth Programs, go to:
<https://www.usdf.org/education/youth.asp>

The Dressage Foundation Grants

The Dressage Foundations offers a wide range of grants and programs to meet the needs of dressage enthusiasts across the board, including adult amateurs, breeders, instructors, judges, technical delegates, FEI/High Performance, para-equestrian, show management, Western Dressage, and youth and young adult riders.

To access their grant calendar, go to: <https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/>

About Dressage4Kids

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated for the express purpose of providing educational and competitive opportunities for youth riders and the adults who support them.

<https://dressage4kids.org>

Check out our videos on YouTube

Dressage4Kids | d4k.org@gmail.com | dressage4kids.org

See what's happening on our social sites:



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