

I recently was awarded a D4K scholarship to attend a TEAM clinic at Tempel Farms in Illinois. I was originally awarded the scholarship for a TEAM clinic earlier this year but because of my personal horse getting injured, I wasn't able to attend. After talking to Mary Livernois and Lendon, I was able to transfer my scholarship to a different clinic and was able to find a horse to borrow in that time. I am extremely thankful for the flexibility of Mary and Lendon in allowing me time to sort things out with finding a new horse.

I brought a pony owned by some friends of ours that I have ridden quite a bit earlier this year. It had been a few months since riding him before the clinic but we got back to it like nothing had changed. He is five years old, and still quite green as far as dressage work goes but seems to really enjoy the job. Lendon was awesome in helping me fix some issues like backing off the bit and making him more confident in lateral work. My favorite tip from her when riding young horses that the answer is almost always to push them forward. If they get behind the bit, or above the bit, if they get crooked or backed off aids, it is almost always the best idea to push them forward. Positive corrections, not negative punishments.

I really enjoyed watching the other riders in this clinic as well as the demonstrations and lectures put on by Tempel Farms staff and the Lipizzans. Watching other people have 'aha' moments is just as cool as your own. D4K is an exceptional organization that I am very fortunate to be a part of. I can't wait to participate in another TEAM program clinic.