

WOW WIT 2017

How fortunate I feel to have been selected to participate in the 2017 WIT program and to be granted scholarship assistance from D4K as well.

The nervous excitement and anticipation of what three months away from home and school, living with other girls, doing non-stop dressage and horse care, in Wellington FL, overwhelmingly exciting!!!

Each day has been filled to the brim. Typical day starts with a 5:30 am alarm (on a few mornings the snooze had to be hit a couple of times!). Have to be ready for my roomie on time and ride together to the farm by 6:30am. Check over Dali, Feed and muck the stall. 7:00 is workout time and Yoga. Some Days we run and workout with Anna Buffini. Other days we work out with Liz Caron, our assistant trainer, which includes stretches and exercises on yoga mats on the barn aisle floor. Ride times start at 8am. I liked to be in the first couple of goes. Lessons were centered around what each individual rider is focused on that day or a particular movement. Daily Horse Care. Managed Turnout. Lectures/Events. Lunch break (Horse/Human). Fieldtrips. Evening feed. Night check. Special events, dinners and volunteering. Homework – Online school. Don't forget to eat before you fall asleep! Independent living is a learning experience in itself. I definitely developed an appreciation for Lucky Charms when hunger sets in at all hours.

I came as a 15 year old accustomed to riding daily after school, my horse being looked after by others and doing what I can to pitch in to help and learn. After WIT, it allowed me to become the responsible horse owner and rider for EVERYTHING my horse needed. I learned about proper horse care with Grace Gregory, our barn manager, who helped so much when you needed some advice about a cut in the field or if you should call the vet or not. Also, with all of the great lectures that we had the chance to be apart of, the exposure to correct horse care was incredible. We all had the chance to interact with Veterinarians like, Dr. Kim Snyder, Dr. Thor Hyppa, and many other Palm Beach Veterinarians.

Wellington GDF

I'm so proud of my boy and the improvements we made each day together. It is sooo different in a Wellington show ring then back home! I am thank full to Lendon Gray, Liz Caron, and Anna Buffini for working with Dali and I to make it all possible. They have each given me additional tools for my tool belt. In these competitive show rings, you need so many tools! Anna Buffini helped me really dig deep and not be intimidated on a school master and really "cowgirl it up" and "sit back, and strong when you mean business". Lendon thought me to be an effective rider and not a passenger "One time is all it take to get it right". There's never an "I'll do it better next time or one more time". The first time you do something should be to the best of your abilities. It's not fair for you to ask the horse to work longer and harder than necessary. That was one of the greatest lesson I've learned. While our initial scores were not the highest, I feel better

prepared and up to the challenge. Our goals are to become more competitive and continue our quest to be true partners.

My Little Big Man (Dali) and I both feel just how special it is to be at Global for the Jr Festival. A culmination to all of our hard work and perseverance. Our first jog together (on our own) was a success. Even got our picture taken for Dressage Daily! I'm excited and confident to have successfully completed all three Jr tests, achieved better scores each day with the culmination of a qualifying Freestyle score. Dancing to music with Dali in the Adequan arena day three was inspirational and a feeling I will never forget. Both Dali and I could feel how special it was to be competing in such a magical place, in great company, for the first of hopefully many times!

Lendon Gray's D4K WIT Program at the beautiful Hampton Green Farm, Wellington, FL is all that I had hoped and more. It has been very challenging, enlightening, motivational and has encouraged me to continue my journey further in dressage. The exposure afforded to high level professionals, learning/training opportunities, level of commitment and overall WIT experience has been amazing. Lendon has brought us all together with the very best professional and educational opportunities. I know I've made lifelong friends, professional connections and become a better horse person for it.

My sincere thanks to Lendon and D4K. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to work with you and will be an ambassador of D4K programs to all young riders.

-Cammy Manuli