

Scholarship Report

The money I received went towards the three-day boot camp that our stable runs to prepare members of the Riding Right Farm Youth Dressage Team for the Youth Dressage Festival.

On the first day we did Balimo (balance in motion) and worked on cross-coordination. We also did some work with the Balimo stool, and it helped me with my balance. One time I got on my horse right after Balimo since I felt looser.

The next day we all did private workshops with Gail Kapiloff, a judge. She helped me with my twenty-meter circles by establishing quarter points, so my circles didn't get too small. We also worked on transitions and half halts, which helped a ton because the horse I ride, Lydia, gets really excited at shows and has a lot of energy. I am glad that I experimented with half halts!!

On the third day we took practice written tests. The tests had questions that would likely be asked in the real written test, and taught people how to take a test and check their answers.

After the practice tests we practiced braiding our horses. It helped me because I learned that Lydia didn't like her mane pulled, which will be a good thing to know for future shows. I also learned how to clip a horse's fetlocks!

Camp really prepared me for every aspect of the Youth Dressage Festival, and I felt like I was more organized than in the previous year of going to the show. Thank you for helping me with this wonderful opportunity.

Thanks again,
Merritt Perkins