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Dressage4Kids Calendar

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

October

October 17 D4K UP Meet & Greet with Jan Brink during the Absorbine®/NEDA Symposium

October 31 - November 1 D4K Kundrun TEAM Clinic with Lendon Gray at Broad Park Equestrian Center in Gray, Maine

November

November 7-8 D4K Kundrun TEAM Clinic with Lendon Gray at Roaring Run Equestrian Center in Apollo, Pennsylvania

November 7-8 D4K Kundrun TEAM Clinic with Maria Lithander at Cadence Ranch in Hutto, Texas

November 14-15 D4K Kundrun TEAM Clinic with Lendon Gray at Noble Steeds LLC in Canton, Georgia

November 21-22 D4K Kundrun TEAM Clinic with Lendon Gray at Faith Haven Stables in North East, Pennsylvania

Are you interested in hosting a D4K TEAM Clinic? Contact Mary at d4k.org@gmail.com.

D4K UP Meet & Greet with Jan Brink October 17

Dressage4Kids is pleased to announce a special meet and greet with Jan Brink during the 2026 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium!

When: October 17, 2026 during the 2026 Absorbine®/NEDA Symposium, immediately following the last ride of the day

Where: Mount Holyoke College Equestrian Center in South Hadley, Massachusetts

Who: This special Dressage4Kids UP Meet and Greet with Jan Brink is open to all youth ages 25 and under. All youth who wish to participate in the Dressage4Kids Youth Meet and Greet must also have purchased a NEDA auditor ticket for Saturday, October 17th. NEDA auditor tickets can be purchased [online here](#). Thanks to donor support, NEDA is able to offer youth ages 25 and under a special discount on ticket prices for the Symposium. There is no additional fee for the D4K UP Meet and Greet.

[To register for the D4K UP Meet & Greet, click here.](#)

USDF/Dressage4Kids U-13 Regional Merit Awards to Date

Congratulations to all!

Awards to date:

USDF Region 2

First Level

Lucy Dawson (13) & Donna Bella CS

Harbour Morris (12) & FHF Thelina

Training Level

Harbour Morris (12) & FHF Thelina

Juliette Uresti (12) & Jasper

USDF Region 5

Training Level

Victoria Fitzgerald (10) & Trystan

USDF Region 7

First Level

Dominique Scarpete (12) & Evans Pretty Baby

Lily Grant (11) & Shamrock Sea Lion

Training Level

Sierra Smoot (13) & Mega

Dominique Scarpete (12) & Evans Pretty Baby

USDF Region 8

First Level

Anna Banas-Chen (13) & Devon

Brendan Baker (12) & Irish Endeavor

Training Level

Emery Lazares Scaretta (10) & Angel Sparkle

Elena Lazares Scaretta (10) & Starlight Glimmer

[Click here to learn more about the USDF/Dressage4Kids Regional Merit Awards.](#)

Bennett McWhorter Named USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year

The United States Dressage Federation™ (USDF) is pleased to announce that Bennett McWhorter has been named 2026 USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year. Each year, this award bestows prestige

and honor upon one outstanding youth volunteer who has contributed, both nationally and locally, to USDF and dressage.

In her nomination, Lendon Gray spoke of Bennett's passion and motivation, specifically in his development and implementation of Dressage4Kids ACT (Advocacy, Community, and Team) Program, which requires several hours each week of his own time coordinating volunteer activities with peers across the country, maintaining records and volunteer logs, drafting communications to show organizers and facilities, and much more. Established through Dressage4Kids (D4K) in 2025, by Bennett himself to address a clear need he identified within the dressage community, the D4K ACT program was awarded a \$5,000 grant from The Dressage Foundation's Michael Poulin Fund for Innovative Programs. Through this funding and the support of D4K, Bennett has recruited over 120 youth members, representing 30 states and eight USDF Regions, who to date have contributed over 2500 volunteer hours to a plethora of community efforts, as well as to over 60 dressage shows including Great American/USDF Regional Championships, North American Youth Championships, and USEF Festival of Champions.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



photo credit: CentreLine Media

**Dressage4Kids Youth Challenge
at Kingsview Partners Dressage at Devon**

The next generation of dressage took center stage Sunday afternoon at [Kingsview Partners](#) Dressage at Devon with the inaugural [Dressage4Kids](#) Youth Challenge, a new initiative designed to celebrate young riders while emphasizing the importance of developing well-rounded horsemen and women.

Among a competitive field of 17 entrants, Sophie Rutherford and Maria Gross's Maximillian Versace emerged victorious and claimed the win. Rutherford's wins in both the Dressage Seat Equitation class (where she received an 83.000%) and the Junior Handler class (where she received an 86.500%) secured a dominant lead, 10% ahead of the second-place finisher.

Consistently impressive performances from Pierson Fox and her own V's Prince of Glory earned her runner-up honors. The pair ranked second in both the Dressage Seat Equitation class and the Junior Handler class, where they scored an 81.000% and a 78.700%, respectively.

The challenge's final podium finisher was Violet Gutberlet with The Grier School's SWS Encino, who received third place. Gutberlet ranked third in the Dressage Seat Equitation with a score of 78.000% and fifth in the Junior Handler with a score of 77.000%.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



Photo Credit: Bethany P Photography

Atlanta Youth Festival and Atlanta Youth Fundraiser Recap

The Dressage4Kids Kundrun TEAM Program and Atlanta Youth Festival returned to the Georgia International Horse Park for another wonderful weekend of riding, learning, and community. One of the most rewarding parts of the weekend was seeing just how much this group continues to grow. Many riders are now returning for their third, fourth, and even fifth clinic, moving up through the levels and building their skills and confidence along the way.

The weekend also showcased the strength of the D4K community beyond the arena.

The Atlanta Youth Fundraiser raised an incredible \$3,928 in support of the riders and Dressage4Kids. Congratulations to Nate Melcher, the top fundraiser, and to fellow top fundraisers Maya Daniel, Summer Kroupa, and Emily Rawlston. All four are returning Kundrun

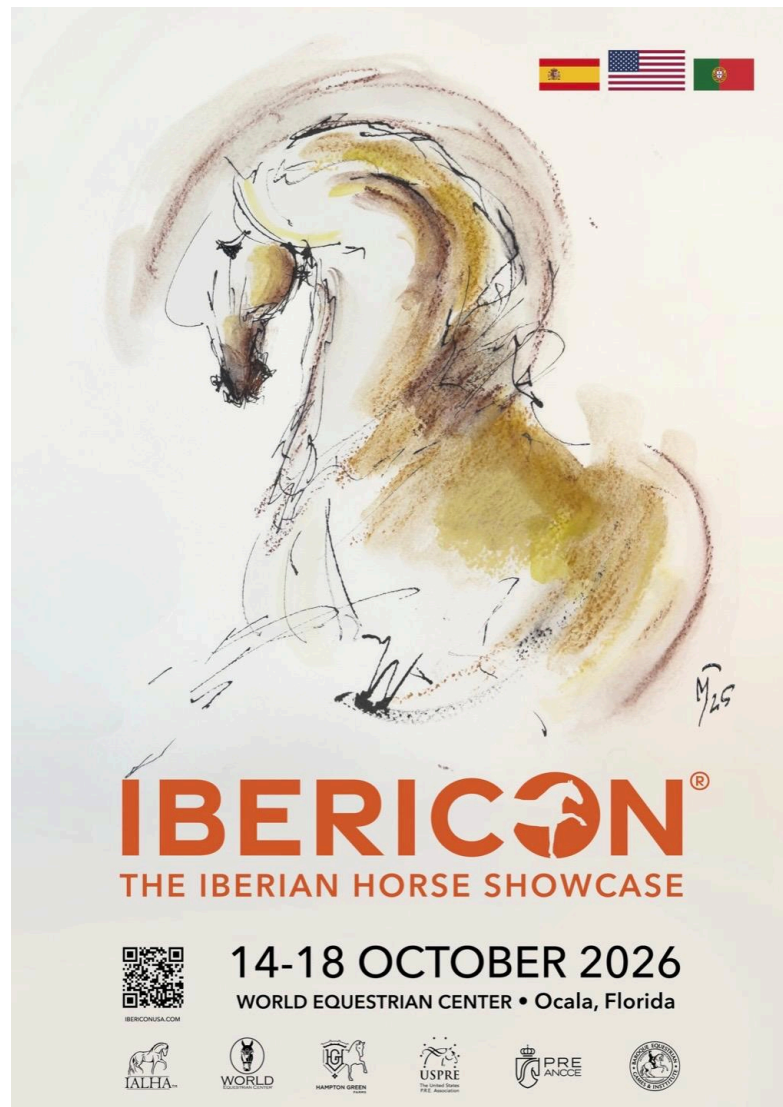
TEAM Program participants and members of the D4K ACT Program, making their efforts a wonderful example of young people not only participating in D4K programs, but also giving back and helping strengthen the community around them. We are incredibly proud of all the young people who put themselves out there and grateful to everyone who donated and rallied around their efforts.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who shared their time and expertise. Many thanks to Liz Molloy, Adrienne Junius, Deb Cohen, Jennifer Melcher, Abigail Kroupa, Dr. Hancock, Kerrigan Gluch, Corie Bannon, Cory Ferris, Nuria Wing, Austin Hermann, Brooklyn Young, Kristene Young, Mark Fornwalt, Kim Feist, Marc Mesa, Eliza Fountain, Patti Shewmaker, Evie Jordan, Margaret Freeman, Keli Grambrill, and Rachel Chowanec-Kaney.

Thank you also to the Georgia International Horse Park for welcoming Dressage4Kids, and to the generous sponsors and supporters who helped make the weekend possible: Atlanta Saddlery, AYDC Atlanta Youth Dressage Challenge, Custom Saddlery, Devoucoux, GDCTA, Mags Mobile, National Dressage Pony Cup, Oldenburg Society, Piedmont Equine & Associates, Rider's Warehouse, Stars & Strikes, The Dressage Foundation, Thompson & Associates, and Wilsun.

[Click here for the full results of the Atlanta Youth Festival 2026.](#)

Ibericon October 14-18 at the World Equestrian Center, Ocala



[Click here to learn more.](#)

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/>

Upcoming grant deadlines in October:

October 5

[TDF's Riding School Fund](#)

October 15

[Amanda Johnson Freestyle Fund](#)

October 15

[Captain Jack Fritz Grants for YR Graduate Program](#)

October 20

[Major Lindgren Instructor Grants](#)

Discover Dressage



*Inspiration. Education.
Competition. Art.*

www.dressage4kids.org

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A Florida 501c3 non-profit
organization

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For the benefit of:

- USEF/USDF EMERGING ATHLETE PROGRAM FOR DRESSAGE
- ROBERT DOVER USEF HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC PRESENTED BY ZEN ELITE EQUESTRIAN CENTER
- LONDON YOUTH DRESSAGE FESTIVAL MIDWEST
- FLORIDA YOUTH DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP
- YOUTH DRESSAGE PROGRAMMING AT THE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

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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