

Youth Programs Committee 2015 Region 9 Report

Youth Programs had **one conference call** on February 11, 2015. The Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program (*see below) was discussed as well at the USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program to be held in FL in January 2016. The idea of moving the YR Graduate Program to CA was considered, but FL is really the most cost-effective location. There has been no more discussion of the Youth Programs Advisory Subcommittee Mentor Program or the development of a youth regional newsletter as was discussed last year.

*The **USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program** is designed to recognize the accomplishments of youth in the dressage community at all levels. This program is open to students who are currently enrolled in grades 6-12 of a middle/ high school or home school program and are a Group or Participating Member of USDF. Pins can be earned in each year of enrollment in the program. ***The program year will run from July 1 through June 30.***

Program Requirements

The following requirements must be met each year to earn a USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin. The participant must:

- Be a current USDF Group or Participating Member
- Be enrolled in grades 6-12 of a middle/high school or home school program
- Have a GPA of 2.5
 - o An official school transcript detailing the past year of school must be submitted.
 - o Exceptions will be considered with documentation of IEP (Individualized Education Program)
- Submit proof of 20 volunteer hours. Volunteer hours DO NOT need to be within the equine community or industry. (Reporting forms are available [here](#).)
- Submit proof of qualifying scores. The following are the score requirements:
 - o Two scores of 60 % or higher at any level, Introductory through Grand Prix
 - Scores must be from two different competitions.
 - Scores may be from a local (unrecognized) or USDF/USEF recognized show. Examples of local shows include:
 - USDF Youth Team Competitions
 - GMO or farm sponsored schooling shows
 - Local and National Pony Club Rallies
 - o Scores submitted must have been judged by a current USDF L Graduate or USEF Licensed judge. (L Graduate status can be found [here](#).)
 - o Scores must be earned during the current program year.
- Record 16 hours of education during the program year. (Reporting forms are available [here](#).) Examples of accepted education hours are:
 - o GMO hosted education seminars and clinics
 - o Completion of an online course on eTRAK (complete and pass quiz)
 - o USDF University Online and Off-Campus Programs

- o Equine related seminars focused on topics such as nutrition, veterinary care, farrier or hoof care, and sports physiology.

Youth Dressage Sport Horse Breeder/Handler Seminar September 28-29, 2015 This new program is oriented toward youth with an interest in sport horse breeding and handling, and to familiarize them with the breeding and showing of dressage prospects and breeding stock. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with breeders, handlers and judges who will address a variety of topics. Participants will also have the opportunity for a “hands on” handling opportunity. Participants may bring a horse for the handling portion of this seminar. For those who are not able to bring a horse, one will be provided. Participants may also wish to enter the Handlers Class that will be held during the Dressage at Devon Sport Horse Competition.

Upcoming events and deadlines:

- August 15- Youth Convention Scholarship application due
- August 31- Youth Volunteer of the Year nominations
- September 1- USDF Nomination for USEF Youth Sportsman’s Award

Region 9 applied for two **Youth Team Competitions**. Unfortunately no complete teams were able to be formed at the Green Country Dressage Classic June 13 & 14. ADA held a Youth Team Competition in conjunction with their schooling show June 21 & 21.

Region 9 Youth Schooling Show Challenge had two applications for 2014:

Kennedy Smith of San Antonio, TX, in Intro Level (ADA)
Peyton DeMarais of Fate, TX, in Training Level (DDC)

Both purchased patches

Anne Kuhns