

Meet the 2024 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Winners!

The USDF Youth Convention Scholarships provide financial support to young dressage enthusiasts to help defray the expenses associated with attending the annual convention.

Tayla Damyanovich



Tayla Damyanovich, Hibbing, MN, 17, has been involved with horses for as long as she can remember., Tayla has been competing with her partner Marduk for the past couple of years,. They have competed through third level, earning Tayla her USDF Bronze Medal. Tayla competed at the 2023 and 2024 USEF Festival of Champions in the 14-18 Dressage Seat Medal Finals, earning top five and top ten finishes.

Tayla enjoys volunteering at local dressage events and attending clinics. Tayla is a Junior in high school and a PSEO college student, working towards her associates degree.

Tayla is looking forward to the opportunity to expand her knowledge of the equestrian world. She hopes that her involvement has a positive effect, not only for herself, but also her fellow peers and GMOs.

Marley McCourt



Marley McCourt, Atco, NJ, 17, has been volunteering, competing, and riding for the past ten years. She had the privilege of attending the USDF Annual Convention in both 2022 and 2023 with the USDF Youth Scholarship which has inspired her to become a PM Delegate for Region 1 in 2023, and again in 2024.

She is proud to have been selected as a representative for dressage on the USEF Youth Advisory Committee.

In addition to earning her USDF Bronze medal, Marley is working her way up the FEI pipeline, having competed at Dressage at Devon in 2022, 2023, and 2024, one year in the FEI Pony division, and two in the FEI Junior Division. This past summer she competed in the FEI Junior Division at the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) with her horse Hide D4K, donated through the Dressage4Kids program.

Ryder Mosqueda



Ryder Mosqueda, Hemet, CA, 13, is currently competing with his horse Atlantico in the FEI Children's division. He has shown at the Festival of Champions in the FEI Children's division for the last 2 years and this year in the Dressage Seat Medal Finals with a Silver Medal Finish. Ryder was able to show at the 2023 USDF at the Kentucky Horse Park where he had a top three finish. Ryder also shows livestock, plays baseball, and is an ASB officer at his school.

Ryder is a hardworking and responsible dressage rider who believes in the importance of teamwork within our sport. He believes that teamwork is not only between the horse and rider, but also between barn mates, competitors and the equine community. One of his goals is to have youth dressage riders feel a sense of pride and friendship that lasts throughout their riding careers and to have fun with each other along the way.

As a first-time convention attendee, Ryder wants to become more involved in the programs that USDF offers and share those opportunities with other youth members. Ryder also hopes to encourage other young riders to attend the convention in the future.

Katie Staib



Katie Staib, Allentown, PA, 19, has been an active member of the dressage community for the last 6 years. Katie has earned both USDF Bronze and Silver Medals, has volunteered and served on the board of her local GMO, the Lehigh Valley Dressage Association (LVDA), and founded and served as the show manager of LVDA's first ever annual Decades of Dressage Show.

This past year, Katie was one of the recipients of the Young Rider Dream Program through The Dressage Foundation and got a chance to learn from some of the best dressage riders in the world. Now, as an equestrian collegiate athlete attending Liberty University, she is pursuing a degree in Project Management and is a proud Co-Founder of the Equine Professionals Club (EPC).

Although she currently finds herself without a dressage competition horse of her own, she remains committed to serving an active role in the dressage community and is excited to learn and grow through her attendance of the 2024 Adequan/USDF Convention.

