



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

SECTION NINE - AWARDS

Whether national, regional or local, awarding individuals for their achievement or involvement is both commendable and necessary. Sometimes a club's awards program is what drives membership, as competitors are looking for an objective way to compare their horse against others showing and riding in dressage. In this section you will see an outline of various awards programs and a sample of specific GMO awards programs.

Recognizing Achievement

As part of its mission, USDF offers a variety of award programs to reward achievement in dressage. In the USDF awards system, there is a goal for nearly every type and level of rider, starting with the USDF Qualified Rider Patch for achievement at Training Level, on up to USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year. In between are the popular USDF Rider Medals (gold, silver and bronze), USDF All-Breeds awards and many more.

Most USDF awards are based on the quality of a horse's performance as demonstrated by scores earned during the year. USDF awards are designed to reward horses that consistently earn good scores, regardless of whether they win a class.

The USDF award programs can serve as a model for setting up your GMO's award program. Follow the criteria listed below; amending it for your club's specific needs and you will have a strong awards program.

Guidelines

Determine your divisions:

- Awards for Riders.
- Awards for Horse/Rider Combinations.
- Awards for Horses.
- Awards for Competitions.

Determine your rules:

- Eligibility for horse and rider.
- Scores - minimum scores, number of scores needed.
- Classes - USEF/USDF recognized, schooling shows, league competitions.
- Awards year - the USDF awards year runs from October 1 to September 30.

For more complete information on this topic, please consult the current USDF Member Guide.

Scholarships and Grants

Whether you are a club seeking grant money for an educational event, an individual seeking to participate in the USDF Instructor Certification program or a promising USEF Dressage Judge seeking continuing education, the Dressage Foundation has funds available for you.

Call the Dressage Foundation for a complete listing of grants available and applicant criteria or visit their website at www.dressagefoundation.org.

Ocean Spray presents grants to women in sports each year. Look for information and applications in women's magazines or visit their website (www.oceanspray.com).

Most GMO's offer monetary awards for divisional scholarships. Examples of scholarship applications and information can be found on many GMO websites. To link to websites of other GMOs, please visit <http://www.usdf.org/Regions/index.asp>.