

## **State of Maine Dressage Association**

### *Dressage Grant Eligibility*

**Overview:** SMDA is a non-profit club whose aim is to advance dressage in Maine. SMDA supports education and advancement of the sport by sponsoring horse shows and riding clinics. Because there are many other opportunities to advance the sport of dressage in Maine, SMDA offers an annual grant of up to \$1000.00 per application.

The amount awarded depends on availability of club funds and number of compelling applications. The club can choose to award multiple applicants with lower award amounts totaling \$1000.00, or up to the amount of funding the club has available.

**Grant information:** The SMDA dressage grant is designed to advance the sport of dressage in Maine. This includes, but is not limited to, encouraging individual members to reach a higher performance goal, improving the availability or quality of facilities for club use, or working toward improving the lives of people or horses involved in the sport of dressage.

Some examples of goals that are considered include:

1. An individual rider or rider team looking to qualify for or participate in a special event or program, with an emphasis on promoting the sport of dressage (for example, qualifying for the USDF Young Rider's Championship, Dressage for Kids, or other special competition).
2. An individual looking for sponsorship to gain certification as a dressage judge.
3. Funding to help care for dressage horses in need (due to incidents like abuse, neglect, death of the horse(s)' owner, and so forth).
4. Funding for improvements to the Hollis Equestrian Park or other facility used by the club.

**Rules and guidelines:** To qualify for these funds, the following rules apply:

1. The applicant must be a current SMDA member, and must have been an SMDA member for a minimum of one year.
2. The applicant must create a plan with scheduled event(s) that help the applicant or club reach a specific goal. The plan, goal, and timeline must be part of the submission.
3. The applicant must complete the template provided and submit it to the SMDA board for evaluation.
4. The applicant must write a summary of the event or results achieved. This summary must be completed before the end of the year in which funding was awarded and will be included in a subsequent SMDA newsletter and posted on the SMDA website.
5. SMDA's grant program is intended to provide funding for special activities, achievements, and causes, and is not intended as a source of funds for members' routine training and showing expenses.
6. If for any reason the applicant cannot complete the plan, all unused funds must be returned to SMDA. These funds will be used for another applicant, if possible, within the same calendar year.
7. Applicants must have a demonstrated history of volunteering for SMDA, and past volunteer activities must be listed on the application.
8. SMDA only provide grants within the timeframe and format of this grant program. Anyone asking for a donation from SMDA will be requested to submit an application for a grant within the specified timeframe. This is necessary to ensure that our process is fair.

**Deadlines and selection process:**

1. All applications must be completed using the approved form.
2. All applicants must be a SMDA member for a minimum of 12 months.
3. Opening day for applications is January 1<sup>st</sup> and all applications must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup> to be considered for funding in that calendar year.
4. The SMDA board nominates a grant subcommittee to evaluate all submissions.
5. The grant subcommittee evaluates and decides on the most compelling and worthy applications by March 31<sup>st</sup>. History of volunteer activity is one of the key selection criteria.
6. Applicants are notified by email on April 1<sup>st</sup> and funds are transferred by April 15<sup>th</sup>.