

State of Maine Dressage Association Volunteer Recognition Educational Award

Overview: The State of Maine Dressage Association Volunteer Recognition Educational Award is a grant program designed to offer financial support to SMDA members with their educational goals and expertise in areas related to equine activities, specifically dressage and horsemanship.

The amount awarded depends on the availability of club funds and the number of applications. The budgeted amount for 2019 is \$1400. In an effort to support as many members as possible, the maximum award will be \$350. No application deadline will apply within a calendar year, but when all budgeted funds are released, that is the end of availability.

Examples of educational programs that would qualify for an award are: instructor certification, judge certification, dressage clinics, workshops or other educational programs such as Dressage for Kids or USDF Adult Camp. Horsemanship clinics, training in equine massage, farrier, saddle fitting, may also be suitable.

Expenses that **do not** qualify are: show entry fees or regular riding lessons. The SMDA Board of Directors and/or Educational Award Committee have the authority to allow or deny any award.

Guidelines:

- Application (Part 1) must be completed and sent to SMDA Award administrator, LLBMASON@ATT.NET
- Application must be received AT LEAST ONE MONTH prior to the event
- Applicant must be a current SMDA member (12 month minimum).
- Applicant must have demonstrated a history of volunteering for SMDA.
- Applicant has not received a grant from SMDA within past 2 years of application date.
- Recipient must submit an evaluation (Part 2) of the event within 30 days.

Submitting an Application

The 2-part SMDA Volunteer Recognition Educational Award is available online at MaineDressage.com, under Resources.

Part 1 of the application includes completing the application with cost information and providing descriptive materials about the educational program and other information about the applicant. Information on where to submit application will be on the form.

Part 2 of the application includes a confirmation of attendance and an evaluation of the educational program. **You must submit the evaluation within 30-days of completing the program as part of the guidelines for this award.**

Applicants may submit their materials via **email**. Please complete the application clearly and completely otherwise your application may not be considered. ***To ensure your email application has been received, please call or text Laurie Mason at 207-233-9268 for verification within 2 days after sending.***

Waiting for Approval

The SMDA Board of Directors and/or Educational Award Committee will acknowledge the receipt of application immediately and will notify the applicant within two weeks if an award is approved. Approvals are subject to available funding. Awards may not be transferred to another individual. Deposits and fees forfeited in connection with cancellation or nonattendance are the responsibility of the recipient and will not be covered by this award.