

## **Amateur Scholarship Guidelines**

The education of youth members as trainers, riders, and horse owners of the future is highly valued by NODA. In 2015, NODA began offering four (4) scholarships in the amount of \$250.00 each, to eligible Amateur members. An individual may only be awarded one of these scholarships per year. Additionally, an individual may only win every once every three years. However, those who do not win are encouraged to re-apply the next year. These scholarships are eligible to Juniors, Young Riders, and Adults.

The deadline to apply for money to be used in any given year will be October 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. For example, if you wish to receive money for an event taking place in the year 2019, you would need to submit your Application Packet to NODA by October 1, 2018. A scholarship committee will review all applications received by the October 1 deadline. Winner(s) will be announced at the annual awards banquet.

Scholarship money can be used for any dressage event that is educational. This includes all dressage clinics, symposiums, lessons, etc. Money cannot be applied to items such as show fees, board bills, or leasing costs. At the time of application, applicants are not required to have detailed and specific plans for the money.

Winner(s) of the scholarship will be announced at the annual awards banquet. Once the winner(s) of the scholarship have decided what they would like to use the money for, they are required to submit a check request form to receive their scholarship. Funds will be dispersed as reimbursement after-the-fact or in the form of a check made out directly to the clinician or host of the event. The Check Request Form can be found on the NODA website.

Qualifications of Applicants for the annual Amateur Scholarship:

1. Applicant is a member of NODA.
2. Applicant has completed a minimum of 8 hours of volunteer work within the year prior to application
  - 6 of the total volunteer hours must be with NODA
  - The remaining hours may be with NODA or any other organization (horse-related or otherwise).
  - All hours must be documented and signed by an organization official
3. Applicant is willing to complete a project of giving back to NODA should they receive the NODA Amateur Scholarship
4. Applicant has completed and submitted all parts of the Scholarship Application Packet as described below

Application Packet must include: (please organize packet together in this order)

1. Application for Amateur Scholarship
2. Typed responses to #1-2 of the application
3. Typed Goals Essay (#3 of the application)
4. Volunteer Record Form
5. Letter(s) of Recommendation

Letter(s) of Recommendation: Each applicant must submit at least one Letter of Recommendation. You may submit up to four. The letter(s) must be from a credible source who is familiar with you as an equestrian or has worked closely with you on volunteer projects or in the classroom (i.e. your trainer, teacher, volunteer supervisor, boss)

NODA will acknowledge receipt of all applications. Applicant(s) will be announced at the annual NODA Awards Banquet in November. Any applicant who does not receive a scholarship is welcome to re-apply in future years. All applications will be considered and evaluated according to the NODA Amateur Scholarship Rubric.

Go to [www.nodarider.org/Scholarships.htm](http://www.nodarider.org/Scholarships.htm) for contact information for questions, and where to mail your scholarship applications and forms.