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**The Dressage Foundation’s**

**USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award**

**Application**

You can use this form to gather and save your answers, but the **online application found on our website** must be completed and received by TDF’s office on or before August 1st for your application to be considered.  Please contact us at (402) 434-8585 or info@dressagefoundation.org if you have questions.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award will be presented at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championship Dressage Show each year.

**Contact Information:**

Name:   
Address:

Phone:

Email:

USDF Member #:

Are you a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?

**Application Questions:**

**Your Dressage Résumé:**  In 1 page or less, discuss your dressage résumé to include:

* Training/instructing experience
* Instructor, TD, or judge certifications/licenses
* Attendance at recent clinics, seminars, symposia or other educational events
* Awards received

**Your Biography:** In 1 page or less, include any horse or non-horse related background, other than listed in your résumé above, that you feel is pertinent to your dressage career.

**Your Volunteerism:** In 1 page or less, tell us about your service to the dressage community at a local, regional, and/or national level. Examples include serving on a GMO Board or committee, volunteering at competitions and events, hosting open clinics, presenting free demonstrations, etc.

**Your Training Philosophy:** In 2 pages or less, summarize your principles or how you approach dressage training of a horse(s). Outline how you approach the diversity of horses. Explain your approach when you feel you have reached your limits with a horse. Tell us of horses that have influenced your training, and why.

**Your Teaching Philosophy:** In 2 pages or less, summarize your principles or how you approach dressage teaching.  Outline such things as how you approach the diversity of your students.  Describe the most successful teaching experience you have had, as well as the least successful.  Tell us of your teaching mentors, who influenced you most and why.

**Your Business Plan:** If you receive the $5,000 award, how would you use it? How would the award change your career?  How could you give back?    
  
**Competition Scores:**

In 1 page or less, provide a summary of your best competition record (levels and scores).

**Videos:**

Provide YouTube links to videos of you teaching 3-4 lessons, from the most basic level to the highest level at which you teach. Approximately 20 minutes per lesson, with a maximum of 30 minutes per lesson. See “Video Recommendations” document for more information.

*Optional upload –* Provide short written statements about each horse and rider. See “Video Recommendations.” (This information can also be included on the videos.)

**Reference Letters:**

Provide the following reference letters:

* 2 letters of recommendation from dressage professionals who have respected teaching/training credentials.
* 2 letters from your students (past or present) that describe, in detail, the benefits of learning dressage from you.
* 1 letter from show management, Regional Director, or GMO president attesting to your volunteer efforts.

**Signature:**

Download and sign where indicated on the Signature Page.

**COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM AT** [**WWW.DRESSAGEFOUNDATION.ORG**](http://www.dressagefoundation.org/) **ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1st TO BE CONSIDERED.**