



In this Newsletter

- [Calendar](#)
- [Meet Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival Competitor Sophie Rutherford](#)
- [D4K Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival 2026 Save the Date](#)
- [D4K UP Meet and Greet with Gareth Hughes](#)
- [D4K ACT Program](#)
- [D4K WIT Program spot available](#)
- [CDI Mexico](#)
- [TDF Now Accepting Applications for the 2026 Dream Program Trip to Wellington](#)
- [US Equestrian Announces Dates and Locations for 2026 USEF Dressage Youth Training Series](#)
- [USDF Launches New "You Be the Judge" Education Module](#)
- [PennVet New Bolton Center's First Tuesday Lectures](#)
- [The Dressage Foundation Grants](#)

[Scroll down to continue reading](#)

Dressage4Kids Calendar

<https://dressage4kids.org/news-events/event-calendar.html>

October

October 18 D4K UP Meet and Greet with Gareth Hughes at the NEDA Fall Symposium at Mount Holyoke College Equestrian Center in South Hadley, Massachusetts

October 25-26 D4K TEAM Clinic at Meadowbrook Equestrian Center in Naples, Maine

November

November 1-2 D4K TEAM Clinic at Roaring Run Equestrian Center in Apollo, Pennsylvania

November 7-9 CDI Mexico at Rancho St. Vincent in Lerma, Mexico

November 15-16 D4K TEAM Clinic at Maplewood Farms in Waymart, Pennsylvania

November 22-23 D4K TEAM Clinic at Serenity Rose Equestrian Center in Denton, Nebraska

November 22-23 D4K TEAM Clinic with Lilo Fore at Twinwood Equestrian Center in Fulshear, Texas

Are you interested in hosting a D4K TEAM Clinic? Contact Mary at d4k.org@gmail.com.

Meet D4K Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival Competitor and Overall Champion Sophie Rutherford

Sophie Rutherford won the First Level Division at Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival 2025 and was also the Overall Champion at this year's show.

Q: How many years have you competed at Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival?

Sophie: I've competed at Lendon's youth dressage festival for around 6 years now.

Q :What was your reaction when you found out you were Division Champion?

Sophie: I was surprised, but also so excited to get scores high enough to be rewarded champion.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your horse?

Sophie: Shelene is a 5 year old mare bred by Mo Swanson, who I've been riding for around a year. She's so sweet and loving, and such a fun ride!

Q: What's your horse's "superpower" in the show ring?

Sophie: I would say Shelene's superpowers in the show ring are her big upward gaits, and her love for the work!

Q: If your horse could talk, what's something they might say to you?

Sophie: I think Shelene would say, "I love going inside to work and learn!"

Q: Is there anyone whom you would like to thank for helping you on your dressage/riding journey?

Sophie: I would like to thank Mo Swanson for the amazing opportunity to ride this mare, and my mom, Natasha Rutherford, for teaching me everything I know!

For more information about D4K Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival, go to:

<https://dressage4kids.org/d4k-festival/>



D4K Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival 2026 Save the Date

Save the date!

D4K Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival

Horse Park of New Jersey in Allentown, New Jersey

August 7-9, 2026

Individual and team competition for riders of all levels, ages 25 and under.

Stay tuned for more info!

D4K UP Meet and Greet with Gareth Hughes

Dressage4Kids is pleased to announce a special meet and greet with Gareth Hughes during the 2025 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium!

When: October 18, 2025 during the 2025 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium, immediately following the last ride of the day

Where: Mount Holyoke College Equestrian Center in South Hadley, Massachusetts

Who: This special Dressage4Kids UP Meet and Greet with Gareth Hughes is open to all youth ages 25 and under.

All youth who wish to participate in the Dressage4Kids Youth Meet and Greet must also have purchased a NEDA auditor ticket for Saturday, October 18th. NEDA auditor tickets can be purchased online at https://neda.org/symposium_auditor_info.php.

To sign up for the D4K UP Meet and Greet, go to:

<https://dressage4kids.org/programs/d4k-unmounted-programs/d4k-up-with-gareth-hughes.html>

Don't miss your chance to chat with and ask questions of one of the best riders/trainers in the world.



Attention: Youth Dressage Riders!

Half Price Tickets

Absorbine®/NEDA Symposium
with Gareth Hughes
Mount Holyoke College Equestrian Center
South Hadley, MA
October 18-19th

Due to the generosity of several sponsors, NEDA can make this incredible opportunity available to JR, YR and U -25 riders

Order Youth Tickets* Today!

One Day	\$80.00
Two Day	\$130.00

*Pricing is the same for member and non-member youth. Must be under 25yrs of age.

A special youth reception with Gareth Hughes sponsored by Dressage 4 Kids will be held after the last ride on Saturday afternoon.

D4K ACT Program

The new D4K ACT (Advocacy, Community, Team) program, with support from The Dressage Foundation, is off to a great start with over 70 participating members across the US from Florida to Washington with a total of approximately 300 volunteer hours. In addition to group volunteer events, we are now expanding to support an individual approach to volunteering, allowing ACT members to easily volunteer in their local communities! So far volunteering has taken place at small and large shows, clinics, and therapeutic riding centers.

The top D4K ACT Program volunteer of each age bracket (13 and under, 14-18, 19 - 25) from 2025 will receive an award for their participation! There will be an overall winner and two runners-up.

The overall winner will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate to the equestrian brand of their choice, second place will receive a \$600 gift certificate, and third place will receive a \$400 gift certificate. The top three in each age group will have the opportunity to have a lesson with a trainer of their choice.

[Click here to sign up today and log your hours to help show the power we can have as youth riders across the US!](#)

[Once you have signed up for ACT, click here to log your hours using the Volunteer Hour](#)

D4K WIT Program Spot Available

A spot has become available in the 2026 (January-March) D4K Winter Intensive Training Program (WIT). For more information, including how to apply, go to: <https://dressage4kids.org/programs/winter-intensive-training-program.html>

CDI Mexico

U.S. FEI Children's and FEI Junior dressage riders are invited to take part in an international competition at the upcoming CDICH and CDIJ Mexico, November 7-9, 2025, at Rancho St. Vincent, just outside Mexico City.

Good luck to everyone!

U.S. FEI Juniors selected:
Lark Heckman - FL
Bennett McWhorter* - LA
Camila Tossas - FL
Claire Tucker* - NE

U.S. FEI Children selected:
Austin Hermann* - GA
Maverick Wright - OR

*D4K participant

Chef/Coach:
Maria Lithander

TDF Now Accepting Applications for the 2026 Dream Program Trip to Wellington

TDF's Dream Program is a unique, immersive program (January 20-25, 2026) for U.S. dressage riders aged 18-22, who are riding at Third Level or above and are dedicated to advancing their dressage journey. This is not a vacation, but an exciting and intensive group experience centered entirely on dressage education. Dream Program participants will:

- observe top riders at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival
- learn from top professionals and industry leaders in and around Wellington
- build lasting connections within the dressage world

Thanks to the generosity of donors, program costs are fully covered by The Dressage Foundation.

The application deadline is October 7, 2025.

Learn more and apply at <https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/young/dream.html>

US Equestrian Announces Dates and Locations for 2026 USEF Dressage Youth Training Series

US Equestrian is pleased to announce the dates and locations for the 2026 USEF Dressage Youth Training Series, part of the U.S. Dressage Pathway Program. The 2026 East Coast edition, presented by Zen Elite Equestrian Center will be held at the Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Fla., from Jan. 1-4, while the West Coast segment of the training series will be hosted at HITS Del Mar Horsepark in Del Mar, Calif., from February 19-26, 2026. In addition to the East Coast session, there will be a dedicated U25 session of the Training Series, also to be held in Wellington, Fla., from Jan. 12-13.

USDF Launches New "You Be the Judge" Education Module

First introduced at the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, the United States Dressage Federation™ (USDF) is thrilled to announce the official launch of the new You Be the Judge education module, available through the USDF website. Made possible by The Dressage Foundation's (TDF) Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Judge Education Fund, and USDF's partnership with Black Horse One, this new platform allows all members to have a peek behind the curtain to understand what, specifically, judges look for and how they assess scores in the competition arena.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

PennVet New Bolton Center's First Tuesday Lectures

Horse owners and enthusiasts from around the world, join us for our 2025-2026 virtual lectures hosted by the renowned faculty and clinicians at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center. The First Tuesday Lectures are held virtually 6:30–7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

[Click here to register.](#)

Upcoming Lectures

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

"Equine Herpes Virus: It can happen anywhere! Are you prepared?"

Aliza Simeone, VMD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity

Tuesday, November 11, 2025*

"Tendons and tumors and wounds...oh my! How the new frontier of clinical research is improving the life of you and your horse."

David G. Levine, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, Associate Professor of Clinical Large Animal Surgery

**Held on the second Tuesday of the month due to election day*

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

"What are my mare's options for breeding in 2026?"

Tamara Dobbie, DVM, DACT, Associate Professor of Clinical Reproduction

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

"Dental dilemmas: Does your horse have undetected mouth discomfort?"

Amelie McAndrews, VMD, DAVDC - EQ, Clinical Associate, Equine Dentistry

Additional spring lectures to be announced later in the season.

The Dressage Foundation Grants

The Dressage Foundations offers a wide range of grants and programs to meet the needs of dressage enthusiasts across the board, including adult amateurs, breeders, instructors, judges, technical delegates, FEI/High Performance, para-equestrian, show management,

Western Dressage, and youth and young adult riders.

To access their grant calendar, go to: <https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/>

About Dressage4Kids

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated for the express purpose of providing educational and competitive opportunities for youth riders and the adults who support them.

<https://dressage4kids.org>

[Check out our videos on YouTube](#)

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