



## **The Dressage Foundation's Young Rider International Dream Program**

### **Chaperone Application Information**

#### **About the Program**

The concept of TDF's Young Rider International Dream Program is to allow four top American Young Riders the opportunity to enhance their understanding of dressage theory through a European tour. The Young Riders observe, discuss and absorb the European training system. They watch their peers compete in shows and championships, and they visit top European trainers and riders. Selection is based on merit, riding proficiency, a history of volunteering in the dressage community, and commitment to training in the sport of dressage.

This program is not for every young rider. Those selected must be at a highly advanced level of experience and commitment with their riding. For those who are, this introductory excursion into European dressage means everything, and the riders come home more seriously committed than ever, knowing what they need to work on to advance and excel in the sport.

#### **Chaperones**

TDF sends two adult chaperones on the trip to accompany the Young Riders. The chaperones are not only there to guide the group safely through the trip's itinerary, but also to teach the Young Riders during discussions about theory, training exercises, and dressage in general. Applicants should have academic expertise and experience as a dressage trainer and/or judge.

The International Dream Program trip is not a holiday and there will be no tourist excursions. There will be no smoking, drinking, clubbing, or individual agendas. This is an intense group experience with a total focus on dressage education. TDF will cover all costs of travel, lodging, show tickets, and will provide a daily per diem for food.

**The primary chaperone** must be willing and able to discuss theory, answer questions and give guidance to the Young Riders on what they are seeing at each location. While driving may not be required, he or she should be comfortable driving throughout Europe in a manual/stick shift van. The chaperone must stay organized with all the schedules, directions and reservations, and will need to handle stressful situations with grace while maintaining strict concern for safety. Most of all, he or she must be someone who enjoys spending time with 16-22 year olds. Qualifications must include at least one of the following:

- Former USET member
- Currently ranked in top 25 on USET GP Long List
- Currently ranked in top 20 on USET Developing Horse PSG or GP List
- USDF Certified Instructor (T-4 or FEI)
- USEF S Judge or higher

**The secondary chaperone** should have all the same qualities as above and should support the primary chaperone. He or she should preferably be a dressage instructor and will need to help with driving, navigating, staying organized with all paperwork, as well as discussing theory with the Young Riders. Qualifications must include at least one of the following:

- USDF Certified Instructor (T-2 or higher)
- USEF R, r, or L Graduate with Distinction (or higher)
- Current FEI Competitor with scores over 64%

Both chaperones will be asked to sign a TDF Code of Conduct policy.

### **Application**

Please type your answers to all questions found on the following page and email your application information to [info@dressagefoundation.org](mailto:info@dressagefoundation.org) no later than March 30, 2018.

Please contact The Dressage Foundation at (402) 434-8585 or [info@dressagefoundation.org](mailto:info@dressagefoundation.org) with any questions.



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**Chaperone Application**

Please type your answers in a Word document and email to [info@dressagefoundation.org](mailto:info@dressagefoundation.org) no later than March 30, 2018.

1. Name  
Address, City, State, Zip  
Phone number  
Email address  
Date of birth  
Passport number (if available)
2. Do you consider yourself a candidate for the primary chaperone or the secondary chaperone (see descriptions on the previous page)?
3. Tell us about your education, work history, and dressage experience. Please list all dressage-related certifications or designations you currently hold.
4. Have you traveled to Europe or other foreign countries? When and where?
5. Have you driven a car in a foreign country? When and where? Are you proficient with a manual/stick shift car? Please provide a copy of your driving record as an attachment to the email (contact your states' Department of Motor Vehicles for a copy of your driving record).
6. Tell us about your experiences working with youth ages 16-22.
7. Do you have any experience writing articles for publication?
8. Have you had experience discussing dressage theory in a group setting?