



Ideas for Grant Applicants to Increase the Number of Auditors at Freestyle Clinics

One of the purposes of The Dancing Horse Fund is to increase awareness of and participation in musical freestyles. As most freestyle clinics can only accommodate a limited number of riders, increasing auditor participation is an important part of educating the dressage community about the fun and beauty of riding to music, as well as the practical issues involved in designing and riding musical freestyles. In addition, auditors enhance the riders' clinic experience, as spectator reactions to the music are important for riders to consider in selecting music.

The following are some ideas The Dancing Horse Fund committee members suggest you consider for increasing auditor participation at your clinic. These are based on successful freestyle clinics the members have participated in. The committee members look favorably on grant applications that propose ways to increase the number of auditors at their proposed freestyle clinic.

1. Invite a top-level freestyle rider from your area to give a demonstration of their freestyle at your clinic. Ask them to share their experience in creating and performing a freestyle.
2. If possible, have a judge in your area who has judged freestyles come and give their perspective.
3. Host the educational part (the non-riding session) of your freestyle clinic in a pleasant area or a home so auditors can get "up close and personal" with the clinician. This can be done the evening before the clinic or one of the mornings of the clinic. Offer a hot meal such as lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert.
4. Consider a raffle or silent auction as part of your clinic. This adds to the fun and makes it more of an "event".
5. Freestyle clinics are also social events, so market it as such. Make it fun!
6. Expenses associated with the above suggestions should be nominal (rider and judge volunteer their time, donations for the raffle/auction, volunteers prepare food). The auditor fees to cover additional expenses should be reasonable so those attending feel they received "value for their dollar".