

# The Endurance Riders of Alberta Youth Scholarship

## The Vision

The Vision of the Endurance Riders of Alberta Youth Scholarship is to recognize, and honour the dedication, consistency, horsemanship, promotion of equestrian sports, and sportsmanship that young riders demonstrate during their equestrian careers.

## Background of the Scholarship

In 2017, Jessica Yavis, after completing her diploma for Social Work, recognized the importance of post secondary education, and wanted to ensure that youth had the opportunity to access this level of schooling. As an active member of The Endurance Riders of Alberta, she put forth a request to start a scholarship program for youth involved in equestrian sports within Alberta. This scholarship was created by a subcommittee, based on the foundation Jessica displayed through her desire to create better futures for youth in equestrian sports.

Jessica Yavis started riding at the age of eight, on her pride and joy, Jahlad. Her mother believes that this horse, and Jessica's commitment, got her through her teen years. By twelve, Jessica had received her one thousand mile buckle, and at thirteen, she had done her first one hundred mile ride. At fifteen, she was in Kentucky, with Team Canada, completing all three events on her own horse. Jessica has written and published articles for the AERC magazine. She started, and ran the ERA's Facebook page, sat on the ERA board in various capacities, and volunteered at numerous rides and clinics. She did this all while finishing high school and university. Jessica now holds a Social Work degree and continues to focus her work on children and youth. One of her goals remains the development of the sport of endurance, and she is extremely active in the promotion of endurance with youth. These ideals suggest some of the qualities that the scholarship embodies.

## The Amount

The Endurance Riders of Alberta offer \$2,500, to one recipient per year. Upon receipt of applications, and review by the ERA Board of Directors, the ERA Board reserves the right to award up to two Youth Scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, if it is felt more than one applicant is deserving of such.

## Requirements/Guidelines/Restrictions

- Deadline to apply is December 1<sup>st</sup>. The ERA Board of Directors will review the application. The recipient is announced at the AGM in January, following the application deadline.
- Can be applied to any accredited program, at any technical school/specialized training/college/university.
- Open to Alberta residents only
- Open to ages 21 and under (as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Must be an active participant in an equestrian sport/equine industry.
- Minimum GPA of 2.0
- Volunteer hours with Endurance Riders of Alberta, and/or within your equestrian sport, and the equine industry are strongly encouraged.
- Volunteer hours in your community will be considered
- Past recipients are not eligible to reapply
- Providing false information on the application will forfeit your current application. You may then apply the following year, if you are still eligible.

## Scholarship Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Point Average (Post Secondary Only) \_\_\_\_\_

Average Grade of Last Completed Year of School (High School) \_\_\_\_\_

Equestrian Sport/Involvement in the Equine Industry \_\_\_\_\_

School & Program that you are enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

In 1000 words total, please answer the following (typed on a separate piece of paper):

1. List contributions you have made to the development of your equestrian sport, or the equine industry, including significant competitions, awards, mileage, accomplishments and volunteering.
2. How does your involvement in your equestrian sport/equine industry make you a better citizen in your community?
3. Tell us about the partnership you and your horse(s) have!
4. What are your future plans and goals within the equine industry?

You must also include:

1. A copy of your latest grade transcript from your current school.
2. Letter of Acceptance or Confirmation of enrollment into the program you plan on applying the scholarship to.
3. One letter of recommendation from an adult, familiar with your equine experience.
4. A second letter of recommendation from an adult, non-family member, familiar with your contributions to your equestrian sport/equine industry and/or your community.

Please send the completed applications to: [erascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:erascholarship@gmail.com)

Applications must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Recipient will be announced at the Endurance Riders of Alberta AGM in January, following the entry deadline.

