



Lendon Gray's Thirteenth Annual  
**Youth Dressage Festival**  
July 8 through 10, 2011  
HITS on the Hudson, Saugerties, New York

Welcome back to returning competitors and welcome to newcomers! The Youth Dressage Festival (YDF) is a unique equestrian competition and educational event conducted annually by Dressage4Kids, Inc. It is traditionally held on a weekend during July or August. Click on the toolbar to the left for an [Overview of the Youth Dressage Festival](#)'s exciting events and activities.

How do you prepare for the Festival? To get started, click on the toolbar to the left to read the [Prize List](#). The Prize List contains all the information you'll need, including qualifying requirements, rules and a tentative schedule for the weekend. It is full of so much essential information that Lendon has included questions on the Written Test which cover material found only in the Prize List.

Next, talk with your trainer and parents to determine which divisions and classes would be best suited to you and your mount.

Now that you've decided to set the Festival as your goal, go out and earn your qualifying score. You do not even need to go to a recognized show. You can earn the score at a schooling show or a Pony Club competition. You can even bring a judge to your home barn and ride the test there as long as the judge is a USDF 'L' graduate, USEF or FEI Dressage judge.

Begin reading the required books for the Written Test. Click on the toolbar to the left for the [Required Reading List](#) for the Written Test and to order your books. **Make sure you read the correct book for your age according to FEI rules!** Refer to the Prize List for a description of the FEI Age Rules.

Practice your individual Dressage test. Prepare for the Equitation phase by riding with other horses working as a group to get your horse used to working at the trot and canter in an arena full of other horses.

If you're showing in Second Level and above, also practice doing the mandatory (but unscored) practice vet jog. Click on the toolbar to the left for a description of the [Vet Jog](#).

And practice your stable management skills as well. If you are one of the top two scorers in age group 11 to 21 in the Written Test, you will be eligible to participate in the Stable Management Challenge. Go the [Overview of the Youth Dressage Festival](#) to learn more about the Stable Management Challenge.

New features this year are the Handler Class and the Judging Sport Horse Conformation class, both to be conducted Friday afternoon. Click on the toolbar to the left for a complete description of the [Handler Class](#) and the [Judging Sport Horse Conformation Class](#).

We have other several competitions that don't involve you getting on a horse. On Saturday, while the division classes are being run, we conduct a Turn-Out Inspection and the ever-popular Stall Area and Tackroom Decorating Contest. More details on these contests and competitions can be found in the Prize List and the [Overview of the Youth Dressage Festival](#).

On Sunday, there are lots of fun classes you can enter, and many have no qualifying requirements. They are the Leadline class for aspiring riders aged 4 to 8; the Dressage Trail class; the Musical Freestyle class; and the Prix Caprilli class, a dressage test with jumps. Descriptions of all these classes are found in the [Overview of the Youth Dressage Festival](#). Click on the toolbar to the left for the actual tests for the [Leadline](#) class, the [Dressage Trail](#) class and the [Prix Caprilli](#) classes.

Do you ride a Thoroughbred or Quarter Horse or any kind of non-traditional dressage horse breed? Are you an Event rider or a Hunter Equitation rider? Do you ride a pony? Your division scores can count towards one of many Special Awards. Click on the toolbar to the left to read a description of all the [Special and Breed Awards](#) and their qualifying requirements.

Consider assembling a team and enter the USDF Region 8 Youth Team Competition. There are no additional classes you must ride in to enter this competition. You must however, state your Team's name on the Entry Form. Refer to the Prize list for more information.

Want to showcase your artistic talents? Enter our Cover Art Contest for a chance to have your drawing on the cover of the 2011 YDF Show Program. All Cover Art Contest entries must be received by May 31, 2011. Check the Prize List for further details.

But the Youth Dressage Festival isn't just about competitions; it's about learning and having fun, too. Saturday evening festivities begin with a Parade of Teams and Team Awards presentation and often continue with exhibitions by top international riders showcasing the athleticism and grace of our equine partners. Dinner on Saturday evening includes free pizza for the riders. There is also a separate dinner for the adults at a nominal cost, and it features comments from the judges that are both instructive and inspirational.

Getting yourself to the Festival involves some practical matters, too. Work to get your expenses covered. Click on the toolbar to the left to learn how you can [Earn credits towards stabling expenses](#).

The Entry Form will be posted shortly. Once it is posted, fill out and send in your Entry Form and fees as early as possible and make sure your Entry Form is neatly written. Click on the toolbar to the left to download and fill out the [Entry Form](#).

Book your hotel accommodations. A list of hotels can be found in the Prize List. Request your RV Hookup on the Entry Form. There is also a place on the Entry Form to reserve your golf cart (for licensed drivers only).

Check your and your horse's "wardrobe" to make sure everything you and your equine partner will need to wear fits correctly and is in good condition.

If your trainer can't come to the Festival to help you, that's not a problem. We have Roving Trainers on hand to coach you before your class. These young professional riders, veteran competitors at the FEI levels, donate their time so there is no charge for their service. You can sign up for the Roving Trainers at the show grounds, after you have checked in.

Also, if you need some extra practice before your official classes begin, you might want to enter the Friday Schooling Show or do a Practice Ride on Friday. You can find more information about the Schooling Show and the Practice Ride in the Prize list.

Plan to volunteer, and get your family to join you. To keep expenses to a minimum, we run the Festival on almost 100% volunteer-power. **We require all competitors to perform a minimum of two hours of volunteer service during the weekend.** After you have checked in at the show, sign up for your volunteer service. Family and friends who accompany you are requested to volunteer as well. We have lots of jobs to be done, and we even provide clearly written job descriptions. No job is very hard, but all the jobs done by the volunteers help the Show Committee do their jobs better and result in a more smoothly run Festival for everyone. In appreciation for their service, we provide welcome gift bags and other perks throughout the weekend. Click on the toolbar to the left for more information about [Volunteer](#) requirements and positions.

Bringing a younger or non-riding sibling along? We even have special horse-themed activities for younger kids each day. Click on the toolbar to the left for a description of [Activities for Younger Children](#).

Stay informed. There are lots of ways to do that. Scroll down to the bottom of this page to sign up for Lendon's email newsletters about the Festival. Anytime you have a question, reread the Prize List. Check the website periodically for updates. You may also email Lendon at [graydressage@optonline.net](mailto:graydressage@optonline.net). Once you arrive on the show grounds, read the show program you'll receive when you check in. The program is packed with important show-related information. In it you'll find schedules for the weekend, instructions to competitors from Lendon and information about our wonderful sponsors and the other programs conducted by Dressage4Kids. Throughout the weekend, visit the Information booth, check the bulletin boards near the show office and listen for announcements for the most up-to-date information.

From all of us members of the Show Organizing Committee, welcome to the Thirteenth Annual Youth Dressage Festival!

Lendon Gray  
[graydressage@optonline.net](mailto:graydressage@optonline.net)