Scholarship Objectives

- To promote Morgans in dressage in Open and Breed competition, and other public venues such as clinics, and to make their presence highly visible wherever dressage is found;
- To assist our MDA members in advancing with their Morgans in the sport of dressage.
- For 2027, the association intends to award a minimum of three scholarships in the amount of $500 each in three categories to MDA members: Training/First Level; Second/Third Level; Fourth Level and Above. We will attempt to give one scholarship to an amateur rider, one to a professional, and one to a junior/young rider. Based on application quality, the award amount and number of scholarships awarded may be adjusted. Applications can be made online

Requirements

- **MDA Membership**. If you are not already a member, go to **https://morgandressage.org/about-the-mda/memberships/** and join for 2026. Please note that scholarships will not be awarded to members in their first year of MDA membership and in addition, awardees must keep their membership current for the scholarship year, 2027. **Your 2027 membership must be paid in full before money will be disbursed.**
- **Eligible Expenses.** Scholarships must be used to further the training and education of the applicant and their Morgan(s). Eligible expenses include instruction; clinics, mounted or un-mounted and the expenses to attend those clinics or instruction; educational materials such as training books and videos or remote instruction via video. The purchase of tack and computer software is not eligible. **Competition expenses are NOT eligible, nor are the normal and usual expenses of maintaining a horse such as farrier, veterinary care, and the like.** If you have questions on whether an expense is allowable, please ask before submitting your application.
- **Reporting Requirements**. The applicant must agree that s/he will continue to pursue dressage training on a Morgan for the duration of the scholarship (one year). All winning applicants must submit a detailed accounting of how they spent the money no later than December 31, 2027. Anyone failing to submit her report will not be eligible for a scholarship in the future. In addition, each winning applicant must submit a narrative of her training year, with photographs, suitable for publication in the MDA newsletter, no later than December 31, 2027. It is strongly suggested that winners keep a riding log or diary to assist in this process.
- **Subsequent Scholarships.** Scholarship winners will not be eligible to receive a repeat scholarship two years in a row. Winners will be eligible to apply in subsequent years only if they have moved up at least one level, unless they are already competing at the FEI levels.
- **Application Due Date**. Applications must be submitted by November 1, 2026 either online (https://forms.gle/QuT9uFhxyJogz8Ju5) or by completing the application below, and must include the following items:
  1. **Application Cover Sheet**
  2. **Answers to the eight questions below**. Please answer the questions one at a time in order and number each response so reviewers can match your response to the question. You will be given points based on the response to EACH question separately, so make sure you don't skip a question.
  3. **Two to five still photos, in jpeg format, no smaller than 150kb, and no larger than 1mb**.
  4. **OPTIONAL: The URL and link for one or two videos mounted on YouTube or a similar free public video site, between two and six minutes total, showing the horse and ride combination in all three gaits at the level applied for.**
  5. **OPTIONAL: Show records**

Applications not completed online (https://forms.gle/QuT9uFhxyJogz8Ju5) must be sent to **mda@morgandressage.org** with the subject line **MDA Scholarship Application.** Applications will be scored by a team of three to four reviewers and applicants will be notified on or about December 31, 2026 of the results.

Questions? E-mail Josephine Trott at mda@morgandressage.org or call (802) 598-3551. Be sure to use the subject line MDA Scholarship Application or include that phrase in your voicemail message.

Morgan Dressage association

Dedicated to promoting and supporting Morgan Horses in dressage.

MDA Scholarship Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ USDF number _____

E-mail address **[required]** _____

Morgan Horse's Name _____ Registration # _____

Sire _____ Dam _____

Gender _____ Height _____ Color _____

Scholarship Category

(Indicate the level where you are currently competing and/or clinicing.)

Training/First Level Second/Third Level Fourth/FEI

Your Status

(You must indicate one.)

◯ Professional ◯ Adult Amateur ◯ Junior/Young Rider

Junior/Young Rider Date of Birth _____

Did you receive a scholarship for 2026? _____ ◯ Yes _____ ◯ No

(Winners of scholarships for 2026 are not eligible for scholarships for 2027. Members in their first year of membership are also not eligible.)

You must be a current member of the Morgan Dressage Association to be eligible for this scholarship.

I certify that all of the information submitted is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that if chosen to receive a scholarship, I will use the funding to continue my dressage education on a registered Morgan Horse. I also understand that incomplete applications will not be considered.

_____

Signature of Applicant Date

Applications submitted by email are accepted as either M/S Word or Adobe PDF. Photos should be sent separately (not embedded in a Word document) and a minimum of 400x600 pixels (150 kb); larger preferred. Photographs must be jpegs. Videos should be mounted on YouTube or a similar free public video site. Instructions can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtF2AgFSLAw

Applications for 2027 are DUE November 1, 2026.

Send completed applications to mda@morgandressage.org with the subject "MDA Scholarship Application"

Morgan Dressage Association Scholarship Questions

Please answer the following questions. The maximum point value for each section is listed in parenthesis. Please answer the questions in order, number your response and make sure you're answering each question in a clear and straightforward manner. Be thorough but try to keep your answers fairly concise. Excessive wordiness is not desired.

1. Your commitment to the Morgan breed. (maximum points: 10)

How did you get involved with Morgans, what breed characteristics do you particularly appreciate, and why have to chosen to ride a Morgan (as opposed to some other breed) for dressage? How much are you involved with this breed? Etc.

2. Your commitment to dressage. (maximum points: 10)

How did you get into riding dressage? Do you show your Morgan in dressage (if so, please attach relevant show records). Have you shown non-Morgans in dressage (attach records if you think they are relevant). If you do not show, how are you using dressage in your riding? What do you particularly appreciate about this discipline? Etc.

3. Your volunteer work. (maximum points: 10)

What have you done to assist at dressage/Morgan/other competitions? Have you helped with Morgan/dressage/other horse organizations? Etc. (Please give dates, shows, organizations)

4. Your promotion of Morgans and dressage. (maximum points: 10)

Have you promoted Morgans to the dressage community? Have you promoted dressage to Morgan enthusiasts? Have you participated in demonstrations, clinics, equine affairs, parades, etc. where the public is made aware that you are exhibiting a Morgan dressage horse? Etc. (Please give dates & details)

5. Your short term goals. (maximum points: 5)

What do you plan to achieve with your Morgan(s) in the next two years? What steps will you take to accomplish these goals?

6. Your long term goals. (maximum points: 5)

What are you reasonably hoping to achieve long term with your present and future Morgans?

7. Why do you need this scholarship? (maximum points: 5)

8. How do you plan to use the scholarship money. (maximum points: 5)

Please include a detailed description of all expenditures. Include qualifications for clinicians and instructors.

Note: an additional three points will be allocated to any applicant who has been a member of the Morgan Dressage Association for three out of the past four years.

If you have questions about format, or technical problems with the requirements, such as sizing photographs, PLEASE ASK YOUR QUESTIONS EARLY. Scholarship applications which arrive incomplete, in incorrect formats, or illegible may be rejected at the discretion of the committee.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS MUST BE PERFECTLY LEGIBLE AND VALID. WE USE EMAIL FOR ALL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES, AND FOR NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS.