

ADS Awards Program

Revised March 2025

1. Who is eligible for ADS awards?

- Current ADS members/family members in good standing
 - membership paid in full before scores are earned
 - **Day members are not eligible for Year-End ADS awards or show awards.**
- ADS members who have provided at least 4 hours of documented volunteer service during the competition year at any ADS event.
 - **Hours can be completed by family and friends of the rider.**
 - **Volunteers must check in and check out to receive hours.**
- Those who have met the definition of a qualified rider as defined below.

2. What type of awards does ADS offer?

- Year-end awards:
 - Medals (see below)
 - Level Awards for each division
 - Freestyle Awards
 - Rider Recognition Awards
 - Division Year-End High Point Awards
 - Kari Barber Arnold Memorial for Volunteerism and Sportsmanship
 - Schooling Show Award: High Point Award given at each ADS schooling show. This excludes Rider Recognition type classes (see Item 9).

3. What are Medal Awards and how do I qualify?

- Medals are awarded to any eligible, qualified horse/rider combination showing in at least 1 ADS schooling or sanctioned farm show, who earns a score of at least 60%.
- Only 1 medal is awarded to any horse/rider combination.

In order to qualify the pair must earn scores:

- Between 60% and 69.999% for a 60% medal,
- Between 70% and 79.999% for a 70% medal,
- Of 80% or higher for an 80% medal.

4. What are Level Awards and how do I qualify?

- ADS recognizes the Champion and Reserve Champion for each level, Intro through Grand Prix (GP).

Intro through 1st Level

- In order to qualify, a horse/rider combination must:
 - Meet membership and volunteer requirements.
 - Earn 6 scores from rides at a minimum of 3 shows.
 - No more than 1 score per test can be counted from any one show.
 - ie: Enter First Level Test 1, Test 2, and Test 3 at one show with one score counting from each test. Or enter First Level Test 1 with 2 rides at Test 1 but only 1 score from Test 1 will count.
 - Complete the 6 score requirement within the same division and level.
 - Have earned scores from 3 or more judges.
 - ~~○ Have not won the same Level Championship Award the previous year.~~
 - ~~■ (This does not apply to the Reserve Champion Award).~~
 - For Intro, Training, and First Levels, Champion and Reserve Champion will be recognized as well as 3rd, 4th and 5th places.

2nd Level through GP

- In order to qualify, a horse/rider combo must:
 - Meet membership and volunteer requirements.
 - Earn 3 scores at a minimum of 3 shows.
 - Complete the 3 score requirement within the same division and level.
 - Have qualifying scores from 3 or more judges.
 - Champion and Reserve Champion will be recognized.

Western Dressage Intro through Intermediate

- In order to qualify, a horse/rider combination must:
 - Meet membership and volunteer requirements.
 - Earn 6 scores from rides at a minimum of 3 shows.
 - No more than one score per test can be counted from any one show.
 - Complete the 6 score requirement within the same division and level.
 - Have earned scores from 3 or more judges.
 - Champion and Reserve Champion will be recognized.

USEA Dressage Classes Beginner Novice through Training

- In order to qualify, a horse/rider combination must:
 - Meet membership and volunteer requirements.
 - Earn 6 scores from rides at a minimum of 3 shows.
 - No more than one score per test can be counted from any one show.
 - Complete the 6 score requirement within the same division and level.
 - Have earned scores from 3 or more judges.
 - Can do 2 USEA tests within the same division and level or 1 USEA test and 1 USEF dressage test within the same division (for example, 1 USEA Beginner Novice test and 1 Training Level test for Junior division)
 - Champion and Reserve Champion will be recognized.

5. How are Level Champion and Reserve Champion Awards calculated?

- The 6 highest scores earned as described above are used to determine the Champion, Reserve Champion, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Places for Intro through First Level.
- The 3 highest scores earned as described above are used to determine the Champion and Reserve Champions for Second Level through GP.
- The 6 highest scores earned as described above are used to determine the Champion and Reserve Champion for Western Dressage Intro through Intermediate, and USEA Beginner Novice through Training.
- The horse/rider combination with the best average score for each Level is Champion and the second highest is Reserve Champion.
- The same average score system will determine the 3rd, 4th, and 5th placings for Intro, Training, and First levels.

The following is an example:

Roy Rogers riding Silver enters an ADS show and rides three Adult Amateur training level tests receiving scores of 68.5, 59.4 and 66.3. The two highest scores (68.5 and 66.3) may be used as two of his 6 required scores. Roy must now go on to earn 4 more Adult Amateur training level scores at 2 or more ADS shows in order to meet the minimum requirement. He may use his highest two training level scores at the next 2 shows, or he may choose to ride only one test at 4 of the next shows. If Roy chooses to ride in all shows at the same level, only the top 6 scores (no more than 1 score per test per show) will count towards the awards. Scores must all be earned in the same calendar year. Roy's highest training level scores from each qualifying show will be used to calculate Roy's training level average.

6. What are Year-End High Point Division Awards, and how do I qualify?

- The Year-End High Point Division Awards are presented to the horse/rider combinations with the highest score averages.
- The pair must meet the minimum show/test requirements as described in level qualifications above.
- A High Point Division Award is given to each division: Junior, Adult Amateur, and Open.
- The highest scores earned from any level within the division are used, excluding Intro Level tests.
- Horse/rider combinations may repeat as winners from one year to another.

7. How are High Point Division Awards calculated?

- The horse/rider combo's highest 6 scores from the shows are used without regard to the class level test ridden (excluding Intro Level).
- All scores from Training through GP are considered.
- Rider Recognition Awards are excluded from High Point Awards (see Item 9).

8. What are Freestyle Awards, and how do I qualify?

- Freestyle Level awards are offered for Intro through GP.
- A minimum qualifying score of 55% must be earned in the highest test of the freestyle level or any test in the level above the freestyle level.
- A freestyle test must be ridden in 3 ADS shows scored by 3 different judges.
- No other tests must be ridden to qualify for the Freestyle Award (except for the qualifying score criteria noted above).
- Freestyle Champion and Reserve Champion Awards will be given at each level for Junior, Adult Amateur, and Open divisions.

9. What are Rider Recognition Awards, and how do I qualify?

- Rider Recognition Awards are awards given for the EQ Dressage Equitation
- Walk, Trot, Canter Tests, Walk Tests, Lead Line Tests, and Sport Horse Tests.
- A test must be ridden in 3 ADS shows scored by 3 different judges.
- No other tests must be ridden to qualify (except for the qualifying score criteria noted above).
- For Equitation tests, a Rider Recognition award will be given to riders that achieve an average of 3 scores ridden in 3 ADS shows:
 - Elementary level of 65% and above.
 - Accomplished level of 72% and above.
 - Elite level of 80% and above.
- For other tests, the average of the 3 highest scores as outlined above will determine the Champion and Reserve Champion placings.

10. What are the criteria for the Kari Barber Arnold Memorial award?

- The Kari Barber Arnold Memorial award is given to a deserving ADS member for promoting sportsmanship and volunteerism.
- The award winner does not have to be an active competitor but must be a current ADS member.
- The ADS board will determine the winner from a group of submitted nominees and/or deserving ADS members, based on their service to the club.

11. How many shows do I have to ride in to qualify for an ADS award?

- Different awards have different riding requirements.
- You only need to ride in 1 show to qualify for a medal or for the Schooling Show High Point Awards.
- You have to ride in a minimum of 3 ADS shows, each scored by a different judge, to qualify for a Level or the Year-End High Point Division Award.
- No riding is required for the Kari Barber Arnold Memorial Award.

12. Which shows count towards ADS awards?

- All ADS schooling and any ADS sanctioned shows, as posted on the ADS website, will count towards the year end awards.

13. What are ADS "sanctioned" shows?

- Sanctioned shows are shows that are not sponsored by ADS, but ones which the board has decided to sanction and thereby allow members to use the outcomes to qualify for ADS year end awards. A sanctioned show is a show hosted by another club or farm.
- Different shows may be sanctioned any given year; so be sure to check the current competition schedule to verify if ADS has listed such as sanctioned on the ADS website.

14. Do all shows count equally for awards?

- Yes, all shows (rated or not) carry the same weight when computing year end awards.

15. What if I ride in more than 4 shows?

- You can possibly raise your average or offset bad rides by entering riding tests in more than 3 shows.
- The highest 6 scores (or 3 if riding Second Level or above or Freestyle) are used to calculate level averages and high point scores.
 - Any additional lower scores will be dropped.
 - By increasing the number of rides and events, the rider/horse combination can replace low scores with higher scores, thereby increasing their odds of winning.
 - Further, receiving scores from various judges at different shows adds to the experience and fun!

16. What if I earn several scores at one show?

- For Level Awards, regardless of the number of tests ridden by a rider/horse combination, only your highest score per test from any given level at each show (or 1 for Level 3 and above as well as Freestyle) will count toward year-end awards.

17. What if shows are canceled during the show season?

- When a show is canceled, every attempt will be made to schedule another show in place of the canceled show.
- If the show cannot be rescheduled, the ADS board can elect to decrease the minimal score/show requirement.

18. How are my award qualifications submitted for consideration?

- Results from each show are sent to and maintained by an ADS board member or approved individual.

19. Horse of the Year Award

- ADS will recognize one horse per year for this award.
- This will be awarded based on a points system awarded during each show season.
- Points will be awarded for each placing for each show.
- The criteria for this award is below:
 - First Place = 5 points
 - Second Place = 4 points
 - Third Place = 3 points
 - Fourth Place = 2 points
 - Fifth Place = 1 point
 - Show High Point = 3 points
 - Intro Level = 1 point
 - Training Level = 1 point
 - First Level = 1 point
 - Second Level = 2 points
 - Third Level = 2 points
 - Fourth Level = 2 points
 - Prix St. Georges = 3 points
 - Intermediate I & II = 3 points
 - Grand Prix = 4 point
- Rider Recognition tests (ie equitation) will not be considered toward points.
- In the event of a tie, the overall highest median score will determine the award winner.
- Must be a current ADS member and have volunteered at ADS event(s) to be considered.
- This will be awarded at ADS's discretion.

20. Other Awards

- ADS will present additional awards and/or special recognitions at their discretion at the Year End Awards Banquet.
- Must be a current ADS member and have volunteered at ADS event(s) to be considered.