



GRAND VALLEY DRESSAGE SOCIETY (GVDS) 2023 YEAR-END AWARDS RULES

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AWARDS

- All GVDS Year-End Awards are based on the horse/rider combinations with the highest average score, unless otherwise stated, during the competition (calendar) year.
- The rider's age is as of January 1 of the competition year.
- To be eligible to receive Year-End Awards, members must volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours. For Youth Scholarship Recipients, these hours are in addition to the hours required for the scholarship. You can volunteer by:
 - Working at a horse show in a variety of roles. If you want to volunteer at a show, please contact [Barbara Progress](#), Volunteer Coordinator for more information (or 801.721.7111). Or you can sign-up on the [website](#), which will list volunteer opportunities as they become available.
 - Chair or serve on a committee.
 - Write an article for the newsletter.
 - Help at clinics or events.
 - Coordinate programs in conjunction with [Judi DeVore](#), Vice President/Education Chair.
- **Owner and rider must be current RMDS/GVDS members or GVDS Associates at the time scores are accrued otherwise the scores can not count towards Year-End Awards, with the following exceptions:**
 - The horse is owned by a non-profit organization which is not required to be a member of RMDS/GVDS or be a GVDS Associate.
 - Pony Club Awards: A copy of the USPC Card in lieu of RMDS/GVDS membership or being a GVDS Associate. The USPC Card must be on file with GVDS before October 15, 2023 and must volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours as outlined in the General Requirements for All Awards Section.
- **There will be no changes to any scores after October 22, 2023.** Members are responsible for the accuracy of their scores. Members may, and are encouraged to, request a score check at any time during the competition year, however the final date for score checks are October 22, 2023 – no exceptions. Please direct any score check requests to [Karen Harkin](#) or the TBD Awards Chairperson or Scorekeeper.



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- **Scores earned for rides that are ridden as HC (Hor Concours) will not count towards Year-End Awards.**

GVDS ELIGIBLE SHOWS

Most Year-End Awards require multiple scores at the same level from at least two (2) shows judged under two (2) different judges. Riders may select at least two (2) of the seven (7) shows offered in 2023. **Multi-day shows or multi-show weekends judged by the same person will not count towards meeting the requirement of having scores earned from two (2) different judges. Please note that in your show schedule planning.**

The following shows are available for 2023. Please refer to the [GVDS website](#) for specific information on the show ratings and the judges.

1. GVDS Schooling Show I – April 22, 2023
2. Welcome to Spring – April 23, 2023
3. GVDS Summertime Warmup – June 2, 2023
4. GVDS Summertime I – June 3, 2023
5. GVDS Summertime II – June 4, 2023
6. GVDS Schooling Show II – August 26-27, 2023
7. GVDS Schooling Show III – October 7-8, 2023

HORSE / RIDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- Year-End Awards are presented to the horse/rider combination with the highest average score at each level.
- Separate awards are presented for Open, Adult Amateur (AA), Junior (13 and under), Young Rider (14-17), and Pony divisions.

Minimum Requirements

- **Introductory through Fourth Level:** Two (2) different shows, four (4) scores, awarded by two (2) different judges at each level. An average of the four (4) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.



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- **FEI Levels:** Two (2) different shows, two (2) scores, awarded by two (2) different judges at each level. An average of the two (2) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.
- **Western Dressage – Introductory through Level 5:** Two (2) different shows, four (4) scores, awarded by two (2) different judges at each level. An average of the four (4) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.
- **Gaited Dressage and Eventers:** Two (2) different shows, four (4) scores, awarded by two (2) different judges. An average of the four (4) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.

HORSE OF THE YEAR – PONY DIVISION AWARDS

Minimum Requirements

- **Introductory through Fourth Level:** Two (2) different shows, four (4) scores, awarded by two different judges at each level. An average of the four (4) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.
- A rider may choose to ride a pony in any division (Open, AA, Junior, or Young Rider).
- If a rider chooses to ride in the Pony division, the pony must be registered as a pony with RMDS/GVDS and meet the standards stated in Section XIV, B.5.
- The rider must select at the beginning of the competition year whether they want to show the pony in the Pony division or as a pony in the regular divisions. Scores are not transferable from the Pony division to the regular division or vice versa.

FREESTYLE HORSE OF THE YEAR

Minimum Requirements

- Two (2) different shows, two (2) scores at each level, awarded by two (2) different judges. An average of the two (2) highest scores will be used for Year-End Awards.
- Year-End Awards will be given to the highest average score at each level for both Classical and Western dressage.
- Separate awards will be given for each division: Open, AA, Junior and Young Rider.
- There is no minimum score required to ride a Freestyle test at a GVDS Schooling Show.



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PONY CLUB AWARDS

Open to Rocky Mountain Region Pony Club members: Lost Miner Ranch (Gunnison), Roaring Fork Hounds (Carbondale); and Yampa Valley (Steamboat Springs) Pony Clubs.

Minimum Requirements

- Two (2) different shows, four (4) scores at the same level, awarded by two (2) different judges.
- A copy of the USPC Card in lieu of RMDS/GVDS membership or being a GVDS Associate. The USPC Card must be on file with GVDS before October 15, 2023.
- GVDS will offer two (2) awards, D Level and C Level:
 - The highest average score for D Level. The following tests will count for USPC D-1 and D-2 Levels:
 - Introductory Tests A, B, C
 - The following tests will count for USPC D-3 Level:
 - All Training Level tests
 - The highest average score for C Level. The following tests will count for USPC C Level:
 - First Level Tests 1 and 2

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES

Riders must have satisfied the Horse/Rider of the Year requirements to be considered for these awards.

- **Older Is Better** – Awarded to both the classical and Western dressage horse/rider combination with the highest average score at any level (excluding Introductory and Freestyle scores), where the rider is 60 years of age or older.
- **Young Is Fun** – Awarded to both the classical and Western dressage horse/rider combination with the highest average score at any level (excluding Introductory and Freestyle scores), where the rider is 21 years of age or younger.
- **Most Improved** – Awarded to both the classical and Western dressage horse/rider combination with the largest point spread between the **lowest** score at their **first** show and the **highest** scores at their **last** show at the same level in the same competition year. Introductory and Freestyle scores are excluded.



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- **Most Consistent** – Awarded to both the classical and Western dressage horse/rider combination with the smallest point spread between their highest and lowest scores at the same level in the same competition year. Introductory and Freestyle scores are excluded.
- **Single High Score** – Awarded to both the classical and Western dressage horse/rider combination with the single highest percentage score. Introductory and Freestyle scores or scores from group classes (ie. Equitation, Materiale, etc.) are excluded.
- **Overcoming Adversity** – In honor of past member Di Nugent, the GVDS board may award the Overcoming Adversity Award to a member who has demonstrated exceptional efforts in overcoming obstacles during the current competition year.

DRESSAGE TEAM CHALLENGE, sponsored by Karen Harkin

The Dressage Team Challenges promotes camaraderie and team spirit throughout GVDS and across dressage disciplines.

Minimum Requirements:

- Three- (3) person teams consisting of any combination of Open, Adult Amateur, Junior and Young Riders. Riders can only ride one horse on a team, but a rider can ride on multiple teams on different horses. Three (3) different riders on three (3) different horses compose a team.
- Three (3) different family members can be a team.
- Each team is **encouraged but not required** to have a mix of Classical and Western Dressage riders.
- Each team must be named and declared to [Karen Harkin](#) or the TBD Awards Chairperson or Scorekeeper before any rider participates in a show. Declarations can be made at any time during the show year, but scores will not be retroactive and will only count after the Declaration is made.
- Each rider must have a minimum of four (4) scores at two (2) shows, awarded by two (2) different judges. Freestyle scores are excluded.
- All four (4) scores **do not need to be earned at the same level**.



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- The top two (2) scores from each horse/rider combination will be used to determine the average team score.
- The highest average team score will receive a special award at the Year-End Awards dinner.

GVDS Horsemanship Award, sponsored by GVDS Executive Board

Horsemanship goes beyond simply riding or caring for the horse. It also involves the combination of both mounted and unmounted knowledge and abilities. Qualified candidates will exhibit comprehensive knowledge of horse care, knowledge of their desired discipline and willingness to share that knowledge to help others to learn. This award recognizes a GVDS member who demonstrates outstanding horse care and sportsmanship both on and off the show grounds and mounted and unmounted.

Minimum Requirements

- Open, Adult Amateur, Junior, and Young Riders are eligible.
- Nominees are individuals who display outstanding horsemanship by:
 - Always putting their horse first, before their competition goals, or personal achievements in a show and non-show environment.
 - Recognized by their barn mates at home and at horse shows by their peers, volunteers, and show officials.
- Nominations are accepted during the show year and sent to the [GVDS President](#)
- This award may not be awarded every year, depending on the number of nominations and the applicability of the nomination to the award specifications.
- The GVDS Executive Board will determine the winner. A perpetual trophy and an award will be presented at the Year-End Awards dinner.