

Leah Quigley

My Horse Interests and Experiences

Horses have been a huge part of my life for so long. When I was young, I'd play with toy horses and watch movies, dreaming of riding someday. Then, when I was seven, I rode my first horse on a trail ride, and I knew I loved them right then. I was 11 when I went to my first horse camp, and I started taking lessons every week at Cadence Stables. I've learned so much from horseback riding; love, loss, achievement and overcoming challenges. I've learned that even good riders can have bad days, and good riders do fall. You just need to get back up and try again. I don't know what I'd do without horses.

I know how to walk, trot, canter, and jump. I was in my first show in 2022, showing flatwork on a horse named Amber. I placed 1st and 2nd, so I did well since I had just met Amber and only rode her about 8 times before the show. Now, she is one of my favourite horses! Then, last summer I showed in hunter jumping with just cross rails. I ran into the same issue, and I showed a horse I had only ridden a few times. Her name is Stella and now she is also one of my favourites. I also placed great in that show, with two first-place ribbons and others. This summer I'm hoping to jump again, with verticals this time.

Horses are something that shape my life, so I don't ever want to stop riding, and I hope to advance even more!

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How I Would Use The \$500

If I received \$500 to put towards equestrian activities, I would most likely use it for the show or the show prep camp in the summer. Last year I went to the show prep camp at Cadence stable and I want to do that again this year. The camp really helped me prepare for the show by letting me practice the course every day and gave me lots of time to braid my horse's mane and tail.

This summer I want to jump either cross rails or verticals in the show (hopefully verticals) and I'd also like to do some of the fun classes, so I could put the money towards those fees.

One last thing I could use the money for is my weekly lessons. The use of it would be spread out over a few months but it's another great option. This bursary would help allow me to continue with my love of horses.

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