

Claire Little

Essay #1 – Describe your horse interests and experiences (200 words or less)

I am a 15 year old Grade 10 student, and have had a love for horses since I was a toddler. I started riding when I was 6 years old, and started competing at the breed level at age 9 with the MQHA. I've loved a few special horses along the way, even lost my own first horse to an injury, and we bought my horse, Willa, from North Carolina in 2022. Willa and I are both in full-time year-round training.

I have travelled throughout NB, NS, Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in pursuit of the highest level of competition. I have practiced extensively over the years, increasing my mental and physical strength, as well as knowledge of the sport, English and Western disciplines, and horse care.

My goal is to work towards earning a US University scholarship as a member of an NCAA equestrian team, in order to continue to grow as a rider and turn my passion into a lifelong career within the equine industry.

I currently hold a leadership role with the Maritime Quarter Horse Youth Association, acting as Secretary since the 2022/2023 show season.

I thank you for your consideration of my application for this bursary.

Riding Achievements

**PURCHASED NEW HORSE, SONG OF THA SOUTH (WILLA), IN DECEMBER 2022,
COMPETING IN LEVEL 1 YOUTH & YOUTH FOR THE FIRST TIME**

2023 MQHYA Sponsorship Challenge Winner – Raised/Collected \$6,400 for the MQHYA 2023
AQHA Level 2 Youth Exhibitor of the Year: International – Year-End High Point 2023
AQHA Region 6 (Jul 17-23) – Level 1 Youth 14-18 Reserve High Point
2023 AQHA Region 6 Regional Championship Show 2023 – Top 5 and Top 10 in Level 1 Youth
Horsemanship
2023 AQHA Region 6 Regional Championship Show 2023 - Top 5 and Top 10 in Level 1 Youth
Equitation 2023
2023 MQHA Summer Sizzler (Jun 28 – Jul 1) – Level 1 Youth Reserve High Point
2023 MQHA Fall Classic (Sep 4-5) – Level 1 Youth High Point

2023 MQHA Year-End Awards: 2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth – Overall High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Showmanship – High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Horsemanship – High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Pleasure – High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Hunter Under Saddle – High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Equitation – Reserve High Point
2023 MQHA Level 1 Youth Halter Mares – Reserve High Point
2023 MQHA Youth Performance Halter Mares – High Point
2023 MQHA Youth Equitation – High Point
2023 MQHA Youth Halter Mares – Reserve High Point
2023 MQHA Youth Hunter Under Saddle – Reserve High Point
2023 MQHA Youth Western Pleasure – Reserve High Point

2023 MQHA Youth Horsemanship – Reserve High Point

Essay #2 – Indicate how you would spend \$500

Powder Brook Farm, a renowned horse training facility in Harwinton, Connecticut, has invited me to train and compete under their direction at the prestigious All American Quarter Horse Congress horse show in Columbus, Ohio, in October 2024. The Congress is not only the largest breed show in the world, but is one of only a few places in North America where the top riders come together to compete in front of NCAA Equestrian scouts in an effort to be recognized. Along with the honor and the opportunity to compete at this level, of course, comes the financial cost and expense of attending.

I hope to join Powder Brook Farm in attending the Congress to step up to the highest level of competition in Ohio, build my riding achievement Resume, and potentially make connections with NCAA coaches.

The total cost to attend is confirmed at \$10,000.00 (entry and trainer fees, horse hauling to Ohio, stabling, travel, and accommodations for two weeks), and the deadline to register is August 25, 2024.

I would put the \$500.00 toward payment of my entry fees, which are approximately \$600.00 USD.

I thank you for your consideration of my application for this bursary.