

# NWDA



## Accent

In the captivating world of equestrian sports, dressage reigns supreme as an art form that blends harmony, elegance, and precision. Behind the scenes of every NWDA show, there is a hidden force of dedicated volunteers who ensure the smooth execution of these events. For small United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Member Organizations (GMOs), volunteering is not just a selfless act but an integral part of their very existence.

## *Harnessing the Power of Volunteering*

### *Preserving Tradition & Cultivating Community:*

Small GMOs, as grassroots organizations, are essential for preserving the traditions of dressage and fostering a strong sense of community among riders, trainers, and enthusiasts. By organizing and supporting dressage shows, these GMOs allow riders to showcase their skills, trainers to share their expertise, and spectators to witness the beauty of dressage firsthand. Volunteers are the lifeblood of NWDA events!

### *Supporting Education & Development:*

Volunteering for dressage shows is a unique opportunity for NWDA members passionate about equestrian sports to gain valuable knowledge and experience. Volunteering as a scribe is an opportunity to expand your dressage knowledge and develop a better understanding of what a correctly ridden test looks like. Doing the tack checks can help you learn about the history and rationale for the USDF/USEF rules regarding appropriate tack.

### *Strengthening the Infrastructure:*

Small GMOs face numerous challenges when organizing dressage shows, from securing suitable venues to managing logistics and finances.

Volunteering becomes a vital support system that NWDA volunteers lend their expertise in event

planning, marketing, and administration, to ensure that shows run seamlessly. Their efforts help strengthen the infrastructure of these organizations, enabling them to continue offering high-quality events that promote dressage and benefit the equestrian community as a whole.

### *Fostering Long-Term Sustainability:*

NWDA operates on a limited budget and relies heavily on member support. Volunteer individuals

contribute to the financial viability of our events, reducing costs and allowing us to allocate resources towards improving the overall experience. The commitment of volunteers fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility within the dressage community, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and elegance of this sport.

*See Volunteers, next page*

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

**July 22-23, 2023  
August 5-6, 2023**

*All King Victor Emmanuel's School Horses Can Make Really Beautiful People Fall*

# VOLUNTEER ROLES at NWDA SHOWS

**Stall Check and Labeling (Friday 12-2PM):** Check that stalls are clean and in good shape. Report any issues to the show manager. Label the stalls with the competitors' and horses' names. Check with show secretary about the number of shavings each competitor purchased and deliver those to their stalls.

**Ring Set Up (Friday 12-2 PM):** The dressage ring components are located in the grey NWDA trailer parked by the corner of the ring closest to the woods. Set up the dressage area and letters. The arena should be 5 boards across on the A and C sides and 15 boards across on the E and B sides. The two boards with red marks are to go where A and C are. There is a measuring tape in the show office to help you accurately place the letters. There are faux flowers to put in the letters for decoration in the trailer. Put white cones between the two rings on both ends to prevent people from walking their horses between the two rings. Make a cone barrier by the judge's booth by ring 1 as well to help prevent people from walking in front of the judging booth. The link below has very detailed directions on arena set up.

<https://premierequestrian.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Sundance-Arena-instructions-20x60.pdf>

**Announcer (Saturday/Sunday for the duration of the show day):** We will give you a tutorial on how to use the sound equipment in the morning. We have written directions and a YouTube video as well to help you. Please show up 30 minutes early, minimum, if you are unfamiliar and need help learning it. Use the show day sheets to keep track of the competitors and announce riders as they come into the ring and the next couple riders who will be up next in the ring. Should there be any musical freestyles, the announcer is the DJ for those rides. We will help you set up the freestyle music.

**Test Runner (Saturday/Sunday for the duration of the show day):** Pick up completed tests from the judge's booths and run them to the show secretary in the office. You can take tests every few rides. Only approach the booth between rides.

**Ring Steward and Tack Check (Saturday/Sunday for the duration of the show day):** Keep track of who is in the warm up ring and show ring. We will give you day sheets so you know where everyone is supposed to be and at what time. We also have a white board that can be used to write down all the rides for the day in order. You can then erase each rider as they exit the show ring. This helps provide a visual for riders of how many rides they have until their ride and reduces the number of questions and interruptions. 1/3 of the riders in each class need to have their tack checked after their rides. Choose those people ahead and mark it on your day sheets. We will mark off the maximum length whips can be on the picnic table by the ring with tape so you can measure the whips. You will also be given gloves so you can check each rider's bit to see that it complies with USDF standards. Change your gloves between each horse so we aren't spreading germs. We

laminated sheets with USDF legal bits for you to reference. Here is a link so you can familiarize yourself which bits are legal.

<https://www.usdf.org/forms-pubs/96D171SsaCo/annex---bits-saddlery-equipment>

**Scribe (Saturday/Sunday for the duration of the show day):** There is some variability of how judges like their scribe to take notes so ask them what they like. Generally the judge will either give you a score and then a comment for each box or vice versa. The score is the most important thing to record so always make that priority if the judge's comments are lengthy. Give yourself enough time in the morning to familiarize yourself with the tests you will be scribing that day. Make sure you have a functional black pen to make notes and a red pen to mark errors or use of voice. Grab a bell or whistle for your judge too. One ring will have a bell and the other a whistle. Both rings should not have the same implement. Make sure you have a stopwatch or cellphone with battery to time the musical freestyles as those have a time limit. Here are a few articles to help you get ready to scribe and also to give you an idea of appropriate abbreviations to use when scribing:

<https://dressagetoday.com/lifestyle/art-of-scribing-dressage-beginners-guide/>

[https://www.usdf.org/edudocs/competition/usdf\\_guide\\_for\\_scribes2012.pdf](https://www.usdf.org/edudocs/competition/usdf_guide_for_scribes2012.pdf)

**Office Help (Saturday/Sunday for the duration of the show day):** Help the show secretary to enter and calculate show scores as tests are brought to the office.

**Ring Take Down (Sunday after the show has concluded):** Clean and pack away the ring cones and boards in the grey NWDA trailer located by the corner of ring 2. (Ring next to the woods)

Other small odd jobs you could help with include pulling boards in the arena at lunch so that the rings can be dragged and watered, helping set up for the competitors party, and helping with stall checks at the end of the show. If you have free time and would like to help, chances are we can find something for you to do!

Many of these roles are currently unfilled for the remaining two shows of the season. Please consider signing up for a slot and helping us to continue to host shows as a GMO. If you can't serve for a whole day, there are some jobs which require a shorter time commitment. Really any job, except scribing, could be shared by more than one person if you and a partner wanted to split the day.

*NWDA gives volunteers credit for their time. That can be used to pay for your class fees at shows or to attend our clinics and educational lectures. Most roles get paid ten dollars in credits per hour of volunteer time with the exception of the scribes who earn fifteen dollars per hour. We will also buy your lunch if you are working a shift at our shows.*

**SIGN UP through signup genius:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054aa4a723a6fa7-nwda#/>  
**OR text, email or call Kjerstin at 630-340-1634 email:**  
[kjerstin.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:kjerstin.anderson@gmail.com)