

Essay #2- Describe How You would spend \$500 NBEA Bursary

By Alem Stokes

March 25, 2025

The NBEA Youth Bursary of \$500 is beneficial for any student learning about horses. If I was awarded this bursary, I would use the money for two main reasons.

The first reason is to use it for additional training and coaching from another riding coach, like Cyndy Toner. I would use the money to drive to Grand Falls and take riding lessons from her. I think that is important to take riding lessons from someone else because they have different perspectives and experiences to offer students in their teaching. It is also important for me to learn new things from different people. I would like to work towards achieving my rider level one.

The second reason is to use the money for horse show fees and expenses. Going to a horse show is important because it challenges me to use my learned skills and face my anxieties. A horse show is challenging because all the horses are together and they be easily distracted or spooked from what they see, hear, smell, etc. Even if I don't win, if I can go and have a good experience, then it is worth it. If there were any money left over, I would use it to go to a local clinic.

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Essay #1- Describe Your Horse Interests and Experiences

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Since I was a little kid, I've been around horses. I started out as a toddler being lead around on a horse by my dad. When I got old enough, I started to ride on my own, under his coaching. I started riding on our horse Beemer, then Ginger and Cinnamon.

They are all registered quarter horses. In addition, I have a miniature pony named Dancer, that I've worked with, and hooked up to a driving cart. Most days of the week, I help my dad cleaning out stalls, moving the horses around, and feeding them their hay, grain, and sometimes medicine. I also help to keep the barn cleaned up and organized. In the summertime, I help to put in the harvest of hay that we do ourselves. I have also learned about hoof care from my dad, who is a farrier.

Last year, I had the experience of riding Carolyn Wanamaker's horse, Lola, for the summer. I learned a lot from both Carolyn and Lola. They taught me about patience, confidence, and leaning to conquer my fears. I went in a horse show in several classes and did well in all the classes. Currently, I am riding our horse Chicory, who is teaching me about improving my skillset around horses.

My main horse interests are western pleasure, showmanship, and trail. I have always ridden western, but I want to push myself and try new disciplines, like ranch riding. I also want to learn more about riding and grow my knowledge about horses overall.

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