

## Essay #1

My love for horses started when I was nine years old, riding at my cousin's barn. From the very first time I got in the saddle, I was hooked. It didn't take long before I wanted a horse of my own — just a year later, I leased my first pony and eventually got to purchase him. That was honestly one of the best days of my life.

In 2022, I started training with my coach Sheila Pickrell, and I'm still working with her today. She has helped me grow so much as a rider, and I'm really grateful for everything she's taught me. Last year, I passed my Equestrian Canada Rider Level 4, which I was super proud of. It took a lot of work and dedication, but it was totally worth it. Now I'm pushing toward my Level 5 in 2026, and one day I'd love to become a coach myself and help other kids discover how amazing riding can be.

On top of all that, I've been bringing along a young pony since 2023. Working with a green pony has been such a cool experience — it's challenging, but watching him develop and improve has been so rewarding. This year, I'm really excited to finally take him into the show ring and compete in Pony Development classes together. I've put a lot of time and heart into him, and I can't wait to see how far we can go.

## Essay #2

Receiving a \$500.00 NBEA Youth Bursary would mean so much to me, and I have really thought about how I would use it to help me grow as a rider. Every dollar would go toward my equestrian goals and education.

One of the first things I would use the bursary for is enrolling in educational clinics because I really want to keep learning and improving, and clinics are one of the best ways to do that. The problem is they can be expensive and not always something my family can fit into the budget. Getting the chance to ride and learn from experienced coaches and clinicians would be so valuable for me and would help me become a much better rider.

I would also put some of the money toward horse show entry fees. Shows are really important to me because they give me the chance to practice everything I work on at home and in my lessons and actually put it to the test. Entry fees can get expensive really fast though, so having some help with that would let me compete more and keep building my experience in the ring.

The rest of the bursary would go toward travel expenses to get to shows and clinics. Hauling horses and travelling to events costs a lot of money, and sometimes opportunities are just too far away for us to manage on our own. Having help with those costs would open so many more doors for me.

I am really grateful for opportunities like this bursary. It would make a huge difference in my riding and help me reach goals that I have been working really hard toward.