

New England Dressage Association Sponsors How To Be A Dressage Show Volunteer Series

Sandwich, MA – Volunteers are the backbone of most dressage shows, and thanks to the efforts of the New England Dressage Association (NEDA) led effort, in conjunction with other Region 8 GMOs, potential volunteers will now have the chance to receive training in some of the behind-the-scenes aspects of running a dressage show. NEDA is offering a series of traveling workshops that will take the sport of dressage to a higher level by training scribes, stewards, scorers and show participants.

“In 2012, NEDA will be holding seven workshops throughout the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Region 8. Our goal for the workshops is to offer a fun experience combined with an educational opportunity for potential volunteers,” said Debbie Carr-Kirk, of NEDA. “Through these workshops we hope to create a volunteer work force that will help host better competitions.”

The workshops will be held in March and April, and so far the schedule includes: Johnson & Wales University in Rehoboth, MA (March 11, 12:30 – 4:30), the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH (March 24, 10:30 – 3:00), Far Meadows Farm/CDA in Morris, CT (March 25, 10:00 – 2:00), Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, ME (April 14, 10:00 – 2:00), The Cornell Cooperative Extension/ENYDCTA in Ballston Spa, NY (April 14, 10:00 – 3:00), the Green Mountain Horse Association/CVDA in South Woodstock, VT (April 14, 10:00 – 2:00), and UMASS in Hadley, MA (April 22, 12:30 – 4:30). Per Carr-Kirk, “By coordinating with equestrian organizations and farms across the region it is our hope that these volunteers will become an asset to the many groups and many shows in those areas. Anyone involved in the show world knows that most equestrian disciplines operate on volunteer power. It’s important to train our volunteers so that shows everywhere will be fun for competitors and volunteers.”

The workshops will last four hours and will include 45-minute sessions for scribes, stewards and scorers, as well as a 30-minute session on basic show dynamics and an overview of relevant equestrian organizations. “There is the opportunity that a fence judging component may be added if the host facility so desires,” Carr-Kirk said. “In that case, the length of the workshop would be increased to five hours.”

The cost of each volunteer workshop will be minimal, as most materials will be able to be found online and will include relevant materials for each participant. NEDA is working creatively to come up with no cost options to attend that will not only include valuable information, but a snack as well.

“NEDA is the largest single chapter of the United States Dressage Federation and we are known for offering top quality education to our members,” Carr-Kirk said. “We are excited to be able to offer these workshops, in conjunction with the other GMOs in the region and it will be a great opportunity for people to meet and greet and network with other equestrians throughout the region.”

For more information on the workshops, to host a workshop in your area or help teach a workshop, contact Carr-Kirk at willowdck@aol.com or 508-539-3534.



Photo: Ring Stewards hard at work at the NEDA 2011 Fall Festival Regional Championships. Photo Courtesy of Debbie Carr-Kirk.