

GDCTA EDUCATION GRANTS
Revised 08 February 2010

The Mission of the GDCTA Scholarship Committee is to provide educational opportunities to members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to and/or excellence in the sport as well as service and ambassadorship within this Association.

The GDCTA Grant has been established "To provide funding support for GDCTA member-riders who are working to sharpen their skills." Five grants of \$500 each will be offered in 2010 to five GDCTA members for concentrated work with a trainer of their choice within one (1) year of receiving the grant award. One grant will be awarded to a professional, one to an adult amateur, one to a junior rider, one to an eventor, and one to a board member. Applicants may only apply for a grant in one division.

Should a grant NOT be awarded in a given year, the money will remain in the GDCTA general fund. PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION PAGES AND PRINT OUT FOR YOUR FILE. Do not include this with your application.

The objective of the GDCTA Grant is to enable GDCTA member-riders and their horse(s) to set aside time to take advantage of specific opportunities for advancement with the understanding that the membership and the sport will benefit as a result of the knowledge and experience gained. We require the recipients to own the horse he/she will train with. This grant is NOT meant to be used with a horse that is not the rider's own team-mate. This grant is meant for GDCTA members to have the opportunity to be in an extended training situation that is not readily available during the course of his/her daily pattern. Scholarships must be used to participate in educational programs that include, but are not limited to: Seminars, workshops, clinics and training programs offered by recognized or certified instructors.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent US residents holding a Green Card and members in good standing with GDCTA.

Programs for which the funding is requested must have a stated objective, must be for the specific purpose of advancing the rider's/official's skills or individual's standing in the GDCTA community, and must have clear beginning and end dates. (e.g., the purpose can be to attend an USAE seminar to move from one judging level to the next, but not to attend a clinic required to maintain one's card).

We are looking for thinking riders, with strong volunteer backgrounds, who want to work on their riding in a situation that is normally unavailable to them because of their other obligations. It is a requirement that recipients of the GDCTA Grant, 1) write an article for GDCTA newsletter, Collected Remarks, for use on the GDCTA website, and for GDCTA's use in other publications. 2) In addition to the written report, we also require that the recipient arrange to give a verbal report at a GDCTA board meeting as soon as possible after their training is complete. 3) Volunteer at least 8 hours (or the equivalent of one day) at a GDCTA function within a year of receiving the grant.

An initial \$375 of the scholarship will be sent when the recipient and trainer confirm date of the training; the balance in the amount of \$125 will be sent when the article for Collected Remarks is received.

Please read the following carefully before you begin to work on the GDCTA Grant Application.

A complete application package will contain information you submit in writing as well as a video (DVD or youtube.com) showing a bit of your riding. We do not put a space or page limit on your answers, but keep to the theme of the item you are answering. Check off each item on page 2 as you complete it, to ensure that you have completed all items.

Recommendations are to be sent with your application material. Do not ask your recommendation writers to send them to Grant Committee.

A complete Grant Application package consists of the application forms, two reference letters, and a video/DVD/youtube of your riding. If the due date comes and the complete Grant Application package is not complete or arrives late, it cannot be considered for that allocation date and is returned to the applicant for future consideration. (This is to be fair to other applicants).

All application material is to be sent to:

Denice Kludt
11165 Highfield Chase Dr.
Johns Creek, GA 30097

770 751-7204 / denicekludt@earthlink.net

We suggest you send your material to GDCTA by USPS (postal), FedEx, or UPS, with a return receipt requested. Send with a good lead-time for delivery before the deadline; if time is of a concern we suggest you advise your desired carrier that this material is to arrive no later than Friday, March 19, 2010, AND be prepared for priority mailing charges. We will not accept any material after this deadline!

After the Grant Selection Committee has made the decision, we will notify the recipient, as well as those who were not selected at this time.

- Past recipients of GDCTA Scholarships and Grants may apply again FIVE YEARS from the year that they were awarded the GDCTA Grant or GDCTA International scholarship.
- Recipients WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED the GDCTA International Scholarship or Grant twice are not eligible to apply again.

The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, March 19, 2010. Winner to be announced on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

The Scholarship Committee (consisting of 4-5 members) meets approximately ten days to two weeks following the deadline to review all applications and allocate scholarships depending upon availability of funds, qualifications of applicants, etc.

The Committee screens each application with a uniform set of criteria, eliminating the possibility of subjective selection or favoritism. While the criteria are slightly different for each category, they generally include such benchmarks as Length of GDCTA membership, Volunteer History, Goal of Program, Competition Level, Previous Awards and Recognition, Benefit to GDCTA's membership, Timeliness of Goal, Credibility and Reputation, Ambassadorship and Affect on Professional Contribution/Educational Purpose.

The Committee attempts at all times to keep focused on how the overall membership can benefit from the educational opportunity the scholarships are providing.

The Scholarship Chairman then notifies all applicants of the outcome. Those who have been awarded scholarships are mailed a "Letter of Agreement" that is a simple contract between the

member and GDCTA that outlines where, when and how the money will be used as well as what the applicant is willing to do for GDCTA in return. Some ways that members give back for their scholarship assistance are giving clinics, organizing a clinic or a fundraising event for Scholarships, judging, writing an article, and/or being available for publicity, photos, etc.

By accepting a grant, recipients must agree to volunteer their time and/or expertise in some way that will benefit the GDCTA membership as a whole. A formal letter of agreement will specifically outline the ways in which the Committee expects the recipient to contribute to GDCTA. (The individual's knowledge and experience will be taken into consideration).