



## Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship Application Spring 2023 Cycle

**Open Date: April 1, 2023 | Closing Date: April 30, 2023**

The mission of the Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship is to provide opportunities for youth aged 17-27 from marginalized communities to become involved or stay involved in horse sports through financial awards and mentorship focusing on not only horsemanship and equestrian pursuits, but also career planning and education. All young equestrians aged 17-27 who are facing challenges in becoming involved or staying involved in horse sports are encouraged to apply.

*Thank you to Kerrits Equestrian Apparel for sponsoring the Spring 2023 main scholarship!*

All applicants will be eligible to be paired with a mentor who will focus on not only equine pursuits, but also on career planning, higher education, and overcoming obstacles in and out of the horse world. One applicant will receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Kerrits Equestrian Apparel to be used for the awardee's pursuit of equestrian activities. Additional awards are available.

### Application Details

- The application has three sections: 1) applicant information, 2) essay, and 3) budget
- Submit your application by April 30, 2023, via [Google Form](#) or by emailing [oyes@optimumequinellc.com](mailto:oyes@optimumequinellc.com) with the subject line "OYES Application."
- The essay section can either be typed or in video format.
  - Essay maximum length, if typed: 2-3 pages double spaced.
  - Essay maximum length, if in video format: 5 minutes
- Please include a photo with your application.

### Selection Process

After the application deadline, the scholarship board will review the applications and select the awardee based on the following:

- clarity of the applicant's goals
- quality of the application (free of grammatical errors)
- proposed use of funding

The award winner(s) will be announced after the application has closed. Awardees will be featured on our website and social media accounts in our "Meet the Awardees" series, unless otherwise noted in your application. All applicants who wish to be paired with a mentor will receive information on who they are paired with as well as instructions on how to contact and schedule a virtual meeting. Applicants are welcome to reapply in future award cycles.

**Questions?** Please email [oyes@optimumequinellc.com](mailto:oyes@optimumequinellc.com).



**Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship Spring 2023  
Application Section 1: Applicant Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18, parent/guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

What OYES services are you interested in? (Circle one)

- Scholarship only
- Mentorship Only
- Scholarship and Mentorship

Location of future work or study: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any colleges or educational programs of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your future or current area of study? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your future or current profession? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What areas of riding or horsemanship are you most interested in learning more about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship Spring 2023 Application Section 1: Applicant Information (continued)

How did you hear about the Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship? (Circle one)

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Word of Mouth
- Equestrian Magazine
- Equestrian Blog
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If chosen as an awardee, would you be interested in being featured in our “Meet the Awardees” series? (Circle one)

- Yes
- No

If yes, please share your social media handles if you would like to be tagged in your feature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please upload a photo with your application.



## Optimum Youth Equestrian Scholarship Spring 2023 Application

### Section 2: Essay

This section can either be typed or in video format.

- Essay maximum length, if typed: 2-3 pages double spaced.
- Essay maximum length, if in video format: 5 minutes

Please answer the following questions with your essay:

- 1) How did you get involved with riding? What are your current riding goals?
- 2) What are your future dreams and plans? How far along are you in pursuing these goals?
- 3) What challenges have you overcome to be involved with riding (i.e., financial, logistical, social challenge, difficulties with your physical or mental health, etc.)?
- 4) Describe your current budget (see section 3) for the use of the scholarship funds (feel free to customize for your plan and be as detailed as possible). If applicable, explain how these activities serve your long-term equestrian goals.

