



## USHJA Emerging Athletes Program

Each year hundreds of young riders apply to the Emerging Athletes Program in hopes of furthering their education not only as riders, but as complete horsemen. The EAP creates opportunities for young riders to advance their education as they strive to become knowledgeable horsemen within the hunter/jumper community.

10 Regional Clinics are offered throughout the country during the months of June, July and August, with a total of 24 riders selected for each clinic. During these four-day clinics, riders have the opportunity to work with top riding clinicians and stable managers. Regional Clinic attendees are instructed on flatwork, gymnastics, related distances and course work, in addition to participating in an intensive stable-management curriculum. Riders also complete a written test as part of their evaluation for the National Training Session. 16 riders are selected to advance to the EAP National Training Session where one rider is crowned the EAP Champion and receives a \$3000 grant for advanced training.

## Eligibility

In order to be considered for the Emerging Athletes Program, riders:

- Must be a current member of USHJA in good standing.
- Must not have reached their 21st birthday before December 1 of the current competition year according to USEF Rules.
- Riders must be able to display proficiency in completing jumper style courses set at 1.10m or higher. Riders are expected to supply the horse they ride in the Regional Clinic, and the horse should be comfortable jumping a course at 1.10m.
- May not have competed in classes over 1.35m in height at the time of application.
- May not have competed in FEI Championships for jumping, such as Young Riders or Children's International Jumping Competition.
- Must pass the Level One USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge with a score of 80% or higher.

## Program Specifications

Riders interested in participating in the EAP must submit the EAP Application and \$50 application fee to USHJA. Three letters of recommendation on the official EAP Recommendation Form must be sent directly to USHJA by those persons providing the recommendations.

Riders may apply to the EAP Regional Clinic of their choice, but may apply to only one Regional Clinic per each EAP qualifying year. Applications, application fee, and recommendation forms for all Regional Clinics are due in the USHJA office by the following deadlines:

June Regional Clinics - Deadline April 1, 2012  
July Regional Clinics - Deadline May 1, 2012  
August Regional Clinics - Deadline June 1, 2012

- All riders who applied to or participated in the EAP in past years are encouraged to apply again, provided they meet the program requirements.
- The \$50 application fee for the Emerging Athletes Program is non-refundable. If accepted, the four-day Regional Clinic fee is \$600.
- Many zones had grants in 2011; check the USHJA website for 2012 grant opportunities.

For more information about EAP, contact Carrie Vaught at [cvaught@ushja.org](mailto:cvaught@ushja.org) or 859.225.6703.