



American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, Inc.
MELISSA MOORE PASSION FOR THE BREED SCHOLARSHIPS

General Information

The purpose of the Melissa Moore Passion for the Breed Scholarship is to provide financial assistance for ASHBA and KASPHA members, who are students seeking undergraduate or graduate level education, and have a sincere passion for all aspects of the American Saddlebred breed. The purpose behind this award is to encourage the youth of this industry to seek higher education or training in the hopes that they will use the skills and education achieved with the assistance of this award to benefit the future of the equine industry.

Completed applications, attached transcripts and financial information are due in the ASHBA office no later than **December 1st**. Letters of reference are due by December 15th.

Scholarships will be awarded only to applicants on the basis of submitted evidence of academic success, financial need, extracurricular activities (including community service), involvement with American Saddlebred horses, and personal references. An interview may also be required. Scholarships will be awarded to two recipients annually in the following manner:

- Award a \$2,000 scholarship to an ASHBA member on an annual basis for up to four years (\$8,000 maximum)
- Award a \$2,000 scholarship to a KASPHA member on an annual basis for up to four years (\$8,000 maximum)
- Scholarship recipients are required to meet certain criteria to be eligible to receive \$2,000 in years 2-4
- Scholarship review committee for the ASHBA applications include Melissa Moore, ASHBA Executive Director and the ASHBA Board President. The review committee for the KASPHA applications include Melissa Moore, ASHBA Executive Director and a representative from KASPHA
- Scholarships are payable to the spring or fall semester. Scholarships will be paid to the college or educational institution, of the recipient's choice, in the student's name.

Any inquiries or questions should be directed to ASHBA at 859-259-2742 or scholarships@saddlebred.com.

Application Checklist

1. Completed and signed application – All sections must be completed for application to be considered for a scholarship. Failure to provide the required documents by application deadline will result in application disqualification.
2. Essay – *See prompt below.*
3. Applicants may provide, if desired, one equine related photo.
4. Applicants must have completed (or be on track to complete by Spring 2025) high school or have received a GED or similar accredited status.
5. Transcripts – High School or College.
6. Financial information must be disclosed for evidence of need. All information will be held in the strictest of confidence.
7. Two Letters of Reference – References can either be emailed by the reference to scholarships@saddlebred.com, or using online form (<https://form.jotform.com/220905880035049>). **It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure references are submitted before December 15.**



8. If submitting for KASPHA, applicant must be a member of KASPHA in the year prior to AND the current year of the scholarship application. For example, an applicant for a 2022 scholarship must have been a KASPHA member in good standing during the 2021 and 2022 show seasons.
 - a. This applicant must have satisfactorily completed the KASPHA Community Involvement requirements. Completed sign off forms must be submitted with the application.
9. Must be enrolled (or have proof of commitment to enroll) in secondary education. Secondary education can include: College, University, Graduate, Post-Graduate, or Trade School.
10. Criteria to be eligible to receive \$2,000 in years 2-4 include:
 - a. Full time enrollment
 - b. Maintain a passing grade average (C average, or equivalent with institution's grading scale)
 - c. Remain engaged in equestrian curriculum as intended field of study
11. Submit your application to ASHBA at scholarships@saddlebred.com

Winners will be announced at the ASHBA Annual Conference, and subsequently notified by mail or email.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation must be submitted by at least two, and no more than four, individuals who are not members of your family. These letters must be submitted via online form <https://form.jotform.com/220905880035049> or emailed directly to ASHBA at scholarships@saddlebred.com, by those making the recommendations. One reference must be an education professional (principal, advisor, teacher), and one must be someone qualified to comment on your American Saddlebred activities (trainer, instructor, youth club advisor, charter club officer, ASHBA director). **It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure references are submitted before December 15.**

Essay Prompt

Please write an essay on the following topic: *"What about the American Saddlebred industry are you passionate about and why?"*

Requirements:

- 1-2 pages (500 word minimum – 1,000 word maximum) on the selected topic
- Please refrain from simply listing horse show wins

KASPHA Community Involvement Requirement

(For KASPHA applicants only)

All KASPHA member scholarship applicants must submit proof of community involvement. We only ask that the applicant show some form of volunteer or charity work with a local (within the state of Kentucky) over the four years preceding and including the application year. Please complete the attached form to submit proof to the scholarship review committee. For ideas or recommendations that fulfill this requirement, see the attached Community Involvement form.



KASPHA Community Involvement Sign Off Sheet

We ask that all applicants for any KASPHA scholarship show their commitment to community involvement by volunteering within their local community. We recognize that community service or volunteerism looks and means different things to each individual, therefore we are not requiring that the involvement be for a specific cause or organization. We are leaving how each individual fulfills this requirement up to their discretion. We only ask that the efforts be used to benefit a cause, organization, or other group local to the state of Kentucky.

List of potential ideas

- Valentine's Day grams- create for local nursing home or children's hospital
- Host a book drive and donate to your local homeless shelter or children's hospital
- Host a winter coat drive
- Collect canned goods for your school or local shelters
- Bake horse treats and sell at a show to raise money for your choice of 501c3
- Cards for Heroes- available through American Red Cross
- Collect used clothing and donate to your Family Resource Center at a school
- Donate your time to read to children in need
- Collect trash at a public park
- Host a penny drive at your school for Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Find out when the next sporting event for your local Special Olympics' team is and go as cheerleaders with balloons & signs
- Create your own fundraising event
- Knit hats for children in need ex: donate to Home of the Innocence
- Get a group together to wrap gifts for free during the Holiday's
- Host a barn party "Talent Show" raising money for your favorite charity
- Participate in gathering items for Toys for Tots or Angel Tree
- Volunteer at your local animal shelter
- Get a group to go to nursing home and play board games with the residents
- Bake cookies and take to local fire station
- Collect items needed at your local Ronald McDonald House (these are listed online at <https://rmhc-kentuckiana.org>)
- Host a fundraiser night for a therapeutic riding center

Sign off sheet

Please submit the following information from your chosen organization

Name of organization, how the applicant contributed to the organization, time spent contributing, dates of contribution, and a signature from a member of the chosen organization or cause.