



The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant Application

Overview

The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant provides financial support for young professional equestrians establishing the early years of their business and wishing to continue their equestrian education and competition. Annie Goodwin was a rising star in the sport of eventing. Her huge smile, infectious laugh, enthusiasm for life, and dedication to her sport, made her an endearing member of our community. In the spirit of Annie's ambitions, the Aiken Horse Park Foundation has established the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant, to foster, support and develop Aiken's young equestrians who embody Annie's character and dedication in their respective sports.

Purpose

Grant funds to be used exclusively in the following categories:

- Competition Fees
- Training/Lesson Fees
- Travel Expenses

Eligibility

All applicants must be:

- Professional member in good standing with their respective national governing body
- US citizen or legal resident
- Demonstrate financial need
- Reside in Aiken for a minimum of three (3) months annually
- Between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age (born between 1995 - 2008).

Supporting Materials

Applicants for the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant are required to provide three letters of recommendation.

- One of the recommendations must be from either a current trainer or a trainer who has detailed knowledge of the applicant's experience and capabilities.
- The remaining two recommendations can be from adults within the equestrian industry (i.e., trainers, veterinarians, farriers, etc.) who have working knowledge of the applicant's riding and/or horsemanship abilities.
- Please note: recommendations may not be submitted from a family member or a member of the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant Committee. If the applicant's trainer falls into either of these categories, please ask another trainer to submit the recommendation.

Submission

Completed applications and all supporting materials should be submitted via

Email: kate@aikenhorsepark.org

Mail: P.O. Box 1951 Aiken, SC 29802 Attn: Annie Goodwin Rising Star Fund

by: **30th of September, 2026**

All applications for the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant are evaluated by the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant Committee after the closing date of applications. No member of the immediate family or a relative of any of the Foundation's officers, directors, substantial contributors or selection committee members shall be eligible for an Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant

After all applications have been reviewed by the committee, applicants will be notified via email of the status of their application, and some may be invited to participate in a Zoom meeting with select committee members to further discuss their candidacy.

If you have any questions about the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant application process, please contact Kate Boggan at kate@aikenhorsepark.org or (803) 830-7077

Contact Info

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ DOB: _____

Personal Info

Should you need more room to answer the following questions, please attach up to two additional pages.

How much time out of the year are you living in Aiken, SC? (i.e., year-round, 6 months, Jan – Mar, etc.)

In what equestrian discipline(s) do you compete? (list all that apply)

With which governing body/bodies are you affiliated? (list all that apply and membership number(s))

What are your short-term equestrian goals?

What are your long-term equestrian goals?

Please provide a list of your riding accomplishments:

Please provide your horse industry-related employment experience(s). Include the name of the employer/organization, hours worked per week, how long you were employed, and your duties:

Describe your financial need, based on your current and past two years' source(s) of income:

If you are selected to receive this grant, please describe how it will enhance/support your ability to achieve your short-term and long-term equestrian goals:

Please provide an estimated budget of how grant funds will be spent in the following categories: competition fees, training/lesson fees, travel expenses:

Have you received any other horsemanship related grants or stipends previously? _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, what was the date of the last grant/stipend received? _____

If YES, how much in total funds have you received? _____

Please provide the names of three references who will be submitting letters of recommendation on your behalf:

The Aiken Horse Park Foundation will supervise the use of grant funds to determine whether grantees have fulfilled the grant terms. All grant recipients must utilize all awarded grant funds within one calendar year from the time of receipt.

All grant recipients will be required to submit to the Aiken Horse Park Foundation no more than ninety (90) days following the one-year time period, a full accounting of how the grant was used, including receipts.

'I verify that the information contained in this application is true and correct, and I acknowledge and understand that any misstatements or omissions of material facts may result in disapproval of this application. I acknowledge and understand that the acceptance of an applicant for the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant remains at the sole discretion of the Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant Committee.'

____ Agree ____ Disagree

Please be advised: The typing of your name below shall be considered to be an electronic signature and shall be considered to have the same legal effect and validity as your handwritten signature. Therefore, in so typing your name in the fields below, you are confirming this verification statement and the truth of the contents of the application.

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if Applicant is under the age of 18): _____

Candidates shall be selected on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. No member of the immediate family or a relative of any of the Foundation's officers, directors, substantial contributors or selection committee members shall be eligible for an Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant.