

Dressage4Kids Team Clinic at Winds Reach Farm

By Zoe Grady

My experience with the Dressage4Kids Team clinic was phenomenal! I gained a lot of knowledge that improved my riding and allowed me to better communicate with my horse. It was fascinating to listen to the lectures and participate in lessons. Although I was the youngest rider in the clinic, I felt an instant connection with the fellow participants and I learned a lot just by watching Lendon schooling other riders.



I started my lesson by teaching my pony how to become more sensitive to my aids. Lendon asked me to do a couple of quick upwards and downwards transitions. This was intended to make sure my horse thinks forward and responds immediately to my cues. Next, Lendon taught me how to do a turn on the forehand, which was a new skill and a great obedience exercise for both Pete and I. We also worked on the accuracy of my dressage figures by schooling 15 and 20 meter circles in different parts of the arena. I learned that by making my horse listen to my leg aid that I could soften my hand, become quiet in my body and improve my position in the saddle. I was very happy when Lendon complimented my mane braiding and leg wrapping skills as it's not an easy thing to do.



Another great aspect of the clinic were the lectures from other equine specialists, a veterinarian and a saddle fitter. Dr. Alana McNutt taught us how to assess a horse's health condition by measuring its temperature, pulse, and respiration. She also talked about the importance of vaccinations and disease prevention. Mrs. Emma taught us about saddle fitting and its components. She showed us different types of saddle trees, fitting and padding, and explained how a poorly fitted saddle could affect a horse's health and performance.



Overall, the clinic was amazing and I my only wish is that it had lasted longer. Both my pony and I learned a lot and made new friends. I hope Lendon comes back to teach us again soon!!!