

The Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) is pleased to present the Sonja Burton English Rider Bursary. Sonja Burton, age 17, was an accomplished equestrian with two horses, Sabre her Quarter Horse and Damaris her purebred Hanoverian, that both complemented her personality: one a cowgirl, the other a princess. Sonja started riding at the age of 8 years old and was immediately hooked, she had always dreamed of being an equestrian. Sonja spent at least 4 times a week in the saddle training at Amberlea Meadows, in Edmonton, AB. She was a very technical rider and took to the sport like a fish to water. She collected a slew of trophies and ribbons over the years. Sonja graduated in June 2015 with distinction from Harry Ainlay High School. She planned to pursue her Bachelor of Arts Degree and eventually study Law. The AEF is pleased to present this bursary in Sonja Burton's memory, for her dedication, passion and love towards horses and the sport of equestrian. This \$500.00 annual bursary is awarded to the rider who has achieved the highest score within the English Learn to Ride Level 8 Test alongside a fully completed application.

#### **FINANCIAL AWARDS**

The annual bursary amount of \$500 is available.

#### **SELECTION PROCESS**

English Learn to Ride Level 8 test must be completed.

#### **APPLICATION CRITERIA**

Individuals may apply if they:

1. Are a current AEF member in good standing and have renewed for the following year. Example AEF membership is required in 2017 to write the exam, then AEF membership must be renewed for 2018 to be eligible to apply.
2. Are a Canadian citizen or hold landed immigrant status.
3. Are a resident of Alberta.
4. Applicants may only apply for the calendar year the test was completed.

The application package must be complete and received at the AEF office by **Thursday, March 29, 2018**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants will be notified by **April 30, 2018**. Successful applicants will be selected on the basis of information contained in their application forms that meets the criteria outlined.

AEF does not return application materials. Personal information is considered private and confidential. Successful applicants may be asked to provide information, articles or photographs at no charge to the AEF for use in electronic or hard copy marketing materials.

AEF reserves the right to withdraw or modify all or part of this program and application process.

## **ESSAY**

We require a minimum 400-word typed essay as part of your application package (12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced) with your name on the top left. Below are items that should be included:

1. What accomplishments have led you to apply for this bursary, and if you were to receive this bursary, how would you use it?
2. How have you been involved with horses or other equines, including volunteer or community activities related to your interest in horses?
3. What are your future equine-related plans, and how will those plans benefit equestrians and equines in Alberta?
4. How do you think equestrian education/rider and athlete development could be advanced in Alberta?
5. How has being a member of the AEF benefited you?
6. How has the English Learn to Ride Program helped benefit you as a rider? How has training with a certified instructor/coach helped benefit you as a rider?
7. Do you plan to achieve Instructor/Coach certification going forward?

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHY AND IMAGE FOR ALBERTA BITS**

As part of the application, each applicant is required to write a short biography of 130-150 words. Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you plan to use the fund, if granted. Submit a high – resolution image (300 dpi minimum) that represents you with a horse or taking part in an equine event.

Successful award recipients will be announced and published in an upcoming issue of Alberta Bits magazine that will include the submitted biography and photo. Images/text may be cropped/edited by the editor of Alberta Bits.

Please forward biography and high-resolution image (minimum 300 dpi) to [coaching@albertaequestrian.com](mailto:coaching@albertaequestrian.com). These must be sent on or before the deadline on the application.

## **LETTERS OF REFERENCE**

Two (2) written letters of reference.

References must include name, address and email address or phone number of the person providing the reference. Please inform your two references that the AEF may contact them.

## **RIDER CERTIFICATE COPY**

Please include a copy of your Rider 8 certificate.

## PACKAGE CHECK LIST

Email/Mail one complete copy of the following items:

- Cover Letter
- Application form
- Essay
- Biography and Photo
- Two reference letters

The completed application package may be sent by mail/email with a cover letter to the AEF Coaching Coordinator. Please ensure that electronic applications are sent as **one singular PDF file**.

*If you have any questions, please contact the AEF Coaching Coordinator.*

Please mail in confidence to:

Alberta Equestrian Federation  
Attention: Coaching Coordinator  
Suite 100, 251 Midpark Blvd SE  
Calgary, AB T2X 1S3

Please email in confidence to:

AEF Coaching Coordinator  
[coaching@albertaequestrian.com](mailto:coaching@albertaequestrian.com)

**Deadline is midnight March 29, 2018.**

*Late or incomplete entries will not be considered.*



## Sonja Burton English Rider Bursary Application Form

100, 251 Midpark Blvd SE, Calgary, AB T2X 1S3  
Phone: 403.253.4411 • Toll Free: 1.877.463.6233  
Fax: 403.252.5260 • coaching@albertaequestrian.com  
albertaequestrian.com

---

Please print clearly. Provide one completed copy of all materials as identified on the "package check list".

Your Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name)

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Citizenship Included: \_\_\_\_\_

AEF Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Instructor/Coach who tested you for Rider 8: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your regular instructor/coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of facility testing was conducted at: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge that all the information supplied is correct (applicant):

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and signature of Parent or Gaurdian required if under 18 years of age on application:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_