

The "Leg Up Scholarship" Essay Contest

Presented by SPHO-NJ, Trot-Trot Standardbred Retraining, and Road to the Nationals Teams

"Leg Up"- the act of giving someone assistance, or giving someone a boost.

Horse showing is an incredible, thrilling, and expensive experience, especially if you have to travel from out of state. How many times over the years have we given our friends and fellow competitors a helping "leg up" onto their mount to send them into the show ring? Now we are pleased to offer them a leg up of another kind, in the form of a show and travel cost scholarship.

The "Leg Up" scholarship was created and funded by Standardbred enthusiasts and horsemen, and the RTTN 2021 teams, to help Standardbred lovers with limited funds experience the magic of competing at the National Standardbred Horse Show.

The National Standardbred Show has been held late summer in New Jersey since 1995. The show is presented jointly by the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of New Jersey (SPHO-NJ), the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOA-NJ) and the USTA. Standardbreds from across the country travel to compete in over 100 classes in a wide variety of disciplines, open only to the breed. This year's show will take place at the Horse Park of NJ in Allentown, from August 13-15.

Entrants should be those who without the scholarship would not be able, or would struggle to afford the costs associated with attending the National Show. Two winners will be chosen, and each will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$550 (USD) to be used towards costs associated with attending the National Show (\$400 show fee credit, \$150 towards travel costs).

Entrants will submit an essay of a minimum of 600 words, that will be judged by our panel of four judges, that will answer the question:

"What would it mean to you to show at the National Show, and why do you need this scholarship?"

The Details:

Entries Due: June 1st 2021

Winners Announced: Mid June

Submission: Email entries as a word document to trottrotstandardbreds@gmail.com

Title entry as "Your Name/Leg Up Essay". There is no cap on essay length, but it must be at minimum 600 words. No specific format is needed, as long as the essay is legible and easy to read.

Judging: Entries will be read by four different judges, who will score each essay on a scale of 1-100 based on grammar, quality of writing, impact of story, and how well it answers the essay question. Each essay will have its four scores averaged out, and the two essays with the highest scores will win.

Prize: Two winners will EACH win a \$550 (USD) scholarship to use towards expenses associated with attending the National Standardbred Show (\$400 in class fees credit and \$150 for use towards travel expenses).

Winners: Winners will be announced mid June at completion of judging, and also contacted via email. Winners will be asked via email for any additional information needed, and given further instructions on how they will receive and how they can use their scholarship funds. Winners may be asked to supply a photo of themselves and their horse for use on social media announcements.

