

Stephanie Berendt

Stephanie began riding in local summer camps in Edmonton at an early age and later joined the local Pony Club participating in local hunter/jumper shows and joining the Regional Tetrathlon team for a year. Growing out of her pony and local circumstances introduced her to Dressage in 2007 and she was very fortunate to be introduced to the Canadian Warmblood gelding, "Maveric" owned by Helen Parker of Edmonton in January of 2008. She joined the Alberta Junior/Young Rider organization began showing across Alberta in May 2008 under the guidance and coaching of Wylda Kristel-Grinde. At the end of her first dressage show year she had several junior high point awards and junior championships at first and second level and was awarded Alberta Provincial Junior champion and received Alberta Dressage association and Alberta Junior/Young Rider Association awards. For the 2008- 2009 year she has focused on the FEI junior and young rider tests with additional coaching by Albrecht Heidemann. She has achieved considerable success in this show season and looks forward to being considered for the Youth National Championship in August of this year.

She has recently completed high school in the full International Baccalaureate Program at Harry Ainlay, graduating Honours with Distinction, with marks in the top ten percent of her large 800 student graduation class. Stephanie has been accepted at the University of Alberta majoring in biological sciences with a view to a career in Medicine, specifically Oncology. She also studies classical voice and is an accomplished performer. Other interests include team sports, running, snowboarding and reading fiction, literature and non-fiction history. She has been fortunate to have been able to travel extensively, and in 2008 participated in a volunteer archeological excavation in Israel with her father and brother under the auspices of Tel Aviv University and the University of Heidelberg. She participates in her church both locally and globally and has counselled at youth summer camps.

In the future, she looks forward to advancing her horsemanship skills in dressage and working toward Young Rider championships.