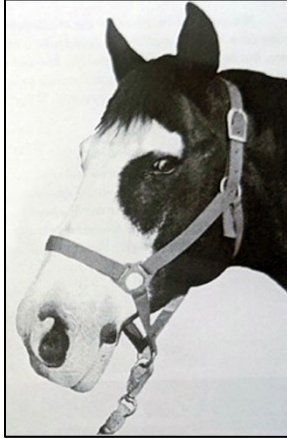


COUNTRY YUCCA EVENTING TRAVEL GRANTS FOR U25 ATHLETES



The Country Yucca U25 Event Rider Travel Grant is designed to assist young event riders, 25 years or younger, in furthering their competitive experience outside their home region, either across North America or overseas. The grant aims to ease the financial burden of travel and promote the development of young talent on the international stage. *These grants are named after Country Yucca, a pony with a huge heart and personality ridden by Nick Holmes-Smith who represented Canada at Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992 Olympics as a member of the Canadian Eventing Team.*

Overall Grant Objective: To provide and support U25 athletes with **experience and exposure** to national and international events through travel assistance.

Grant Value

- \$5,000 CAD within North America or \$10,000 CAD for Overseas Travel
- Awarded once per calendar year
- Up to four awardees per year at the discretion of the selection committee

Grant Usage

The grant must be used toward:

- Travel expenses (flights, fuel, horse transport)
- Entry fees and stabling
- Accommodation during the event
- Veterinary and health certificates for travel
- Other approved competition-related costs

Eligibility: To be considered for the grant, applicants must:

1. Be aged **16–25** as of January 1 of the competition year.
2. Be actively competing at the **Training level or above**.
3. Be a **citizen or permanent resident** of Canada
4. Demonstrate **financial need and clear competitive goals**.
5. Have a plan to compete **outside of their home region**, either across North America or internationally.
6. Be in **good standing** with Equestrian Canada



Selection Criteria: The HPAG will take into account the competition performance record of the athlete/horse combination, giving specific consideration to athlete/horse combinations who have achieved a Target Performance Result as outlined in the chart below: based on either final score or HPR at a minimum of one of the eligible FEI competitions. **Preference given to Athlete/Horse combinations having completed a CCI2*-L or higher.**

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result (Score)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
CCI 4*-L	MER	MER
CCI 4*-S	60 or better	65 or better
CCI 3*-L	55 or better	65 or better
CCI 3*-S	50 or better	70 or better
CCI 2*-L	40 or better	80 or better

Athlete/horse combinations that have not achieved the target performance results may be considered for the Country Yucca Travel Grants, provided the following characteristics have been demonstrated:

- Potential and intention to represent Canada on Senior Teams
- Commitment to international competitiveness
- Demonstrated horsemanship and social licenseⁱ

Timeline

- **Applications Open:** October 1, 2025
- **Deadline to Apply:** November 1, 2025
- **Recipients Notified:** December 1, 2025

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following information to the Eventing HPAG at eventinghpag@gmail.com

1. A **personal statement** (max. 750 words) including:
 - a. Your competition goals
 - b. Why this grant is important to your development
 - c. How you plan to use the funds
2. An outline of **travel plans**
3. A detailed **budget breakdown** of estimated travel expenses
4. One **reference letter** from a coach, mentor, or federation official
5. A **competition resume** from the last 2 years

The Inspiration

Country Yucca represents the resilience of a true cross-country athlete. Yucca loved cross country and was well-known with his signature bald face and four white socks – he was hard to miss. At first, some might have thought Yucca was too small to jump the more advanced fences, but he quickly proved



otherwise. Nick and Yucca were kindred spirits, small and carefree, enjoying galloping over the countryside in the southern Okanagan, British Columbia and all-over North America. Nick has influenced many Canadian eventers over the years, including several riders who have gone on to wear the maple leaf. Bruce Mandeville, Rebecca Howard and Michael Winter have all been fortunate to have worked with Nick on their road to representing Team Canada.



ⁱ **Social License:** In the context of equestrian sport, social license refers to the level of public acceptance, approval and trust that equestrian activities hold with the broader community. It encompasses the sport's ethical, environmental, and welfare considerations and reflects how these activities align with societal expectations, values and standards.