

## Membership Benefits

*Join the Western Dressage Association® of Colorado to Enjoy These Outstanding Benefits*

- **Educational Tools & Resources**  
Develop your skills through written curricula, videos, seminars and webinars.
- **Training Clinics**  
WDACO is committed to a comprehensive education of both horse and rider through monthly clinics with our accomplished clinicians. WDACO members receive first notice of clinics, plus an additional discount. Check our web site for the current clinic schedule list.  
[www.wdaco.org](http://www.wdaco.org)
- **Social Corral**  
A private social network for members to interact, discuss and conceive new ideas for Western Dressage.
- **Specialized News Blogs**  
Featured topics including riding and training tips, horse health and Q&A's.
- **WDAA Tests**  
Use these sequential and fun tests to evaluate your readiness to progress to the next level.
- **Classified Advertising**  
Members receive free classified advertising on our web page.
- **Join Today**  
Join WDAA & WDACO and receive a complimentary tote bag along with a free auditor ticket for one of our clinics.

## Be Part of the Phenomenon

Western Dressage is an equine discipline that uses classical dressage and movements to train and enhance the traditional western stock horse. The Western Dressage Association® of Colorado (WDACO) offers educational opportunities to inspire and enlighten western riders and their horses to a higher level of horsemanship and partnership through the use of dressage. Whether your horse competes in reining, roping, cutting, western pleasure, or enjoys the trail with you, dressage movements will improve the partnership with your horse.

To join WDAA/WDACO and to learn more about the Western Dressage Association® of Colorado, visit:

[www.wdaco.org](http://www.wdaco.org)



We honor the horse.

We value the partnership  
between horse & rider.

We celebrate the legacy  
of the American West.

*It's about the journey*  
-Larry Mahan

WDAA & WDACO are non-profit organizations which, with the support of their members, state affiliates and alliance partners, develop Western Dressage rules, tests, guidelines and standards as well as educational materials and resources. WDAA & WDACO forge national and international relationships to benefit their members and their equine partners.

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION®  
OF AMERICA  
COLORADO AFFILIATE



*It's about the journey*

# Western Dressage - Empowering Your Journey

## Western Dressage Characteristics

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition. It is a systematic and progressive system of training for the western horse and rider, with the purpose of enjoying a safe, pleasurable, versatile and useful working horse.

For many years the horse played a central role in the life of the people of the American West and of the State of Colorado.

Today, the journey with our own horses is just beginning with Western Dressage. We are creating a partnership which honors the horse for the central role he has played in our history. Come join us in this great adventure.

## Hallmarks of the Western Dressage Horse



- Usefulness
- Rideability
- Willingness
- SAFETY
- Pure Gaits
- Lightness
- Calmness
- Steadiness

## Hallmarks of the Western Dressage Rider

- Attentive
- Uses clear, effective, subtle and light aids to enhance communication with the horse
- Confident seat
- Light, responsive hands



## Western Dressage for the Trail

Whether crossing a bridge, opening a gate, or facing down a scary rock, the skills you develop in Western Dressage will help you to navigate all of these obstacles more competently and safely by learning to control the parts of your horse's body with softness, making your horse a more trusting and willing partner.

## Western Dressage Tests

If your goal is the show ring or just to have a better relationship with your horse, the Western Dressage Tests are designed to aid you in developing your skills to build your partnership.

We strive to teach impulsion, originating from deeply engaged hindquarters, transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s).

Dressage based training builds a willingness to work off the hindquarters, allowing the horse to move freely forward, laterally, and to the rear which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.



A full description of each test is available on the Western Dressage Association® of America website.

[www.westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-rules-tests](http://www.westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-rules-tests)

## Western Dressage Clinics

Design your ultimate experience through a selection of classes that fit your individual needs.

WDACO offers monthly clinics designed for all your needs. Our clinicians offer a wealth of knowledge and draw from their own lifetime of learning.

For a full calendar of events, visit our website:

[www.wdaco.org](http://www.wdaco.org)

