

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUNG PARK CITY PARA-EQUESTRIAN NAMED TO U.S. EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION EMERGING ATHLETES LIST

Park City, Utah. (March 3, 2020) – U.S. Equestrian (USEF) has named four athlete-and-horse combinations to the U.S. Para-Equestrian Emerging Athletes list. Named as one of those four, is twelve-year old Parkite, Genevieve Rohner.

Born a premature 28-week triplet, her underdeveloped nervous system led to a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration Disorder, Amblyopia and misaligned right leg bones. One of her brothers had a stroke at birth and also has Cerebral Palsy. Rohner initially began riding for therapy at age four with the California-based Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship, a USEF International Para-equestrian Center of Excellence (<https://www.rideon.org/>). Encouraged by USPEA President, Hope Hand a former Paralympic Equestrian, Rohner began focusing on competition at age seven. Currently training with Prestige Dressage and Sydni Peterson in Utah, Rohner has developed into an accomplished rider with her sights set on representing the United States on Team USA at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France.

Officially classified at age 9, Rohner is a Grade IV competitor. In her first rated show season, she was the only para rider and was two to five years younger than her 13 competitors. Training on one horse in Utah and competing on another in California. She qualified for the California Junior Championships, California Dressage Society (CDS) Regionals and U.S. Dressage Federation (USDF) Regionals at Training level, placing 5th and 6th overall in each competition and earning a CDS Top Ten placement.

In 2019 Rohner and her mount, Fame's Rising Star, began successfully competing Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) grade level tests. With assistance from The Dressage Foundation, Challenged Athletes Foundation and the Utah Dressage Society, Rohner plans to compete at the 2020 National Para-Dressage Championships in Tryon, NC and in the 2020 Wellington, FL Adequan® Global Dressage Festival.

The 2020 Paralympic Games will take place August 27-29, and 31 in Tokyo, Japan.

– U.S. Equestrian Federation –

The primary focus of para-equestrian sport is to provide educational and competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. Many disabled athletes compete, and even excel, in sports designed for the able-bodied, but para-equestrian in particular opens a world of competition to riders with even severe disabilities that might preclude them from other forms of sport, and does so while providing a structured, focused, and highly competitive environment.

*In para-equestrian competition, each rider is classified according to his or her functional ability and competitors are grouped accordingly to ensure a level playing field. While it offers competitive opportunities for athletes of every level and aspiration, para-equestrian sport has evolved into an internationally-recognized event and para-dressage is held as part of the **World Equestrian Games** and at the **Paralympics** which take place every four years immediately following the **Olympic Games** and at the same venue. <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/para-equestrian>*

– U.S. Para-Equestrian Association –

USEF Recognized National Affiliate

United States Para-Equestrian Association (USPEA) includes every recognized equestrian discipline that is practiced by athletes with an eligible physical impairment. The USPEA is a network of current and past athletes, owners, officials, event organizers, and equestrian enthusiasts. The Association assists athletes to get involved and expand their knowledge and experience in the Disciplines of Para-Equestrian.

In 2010, the USPEA earned its 501 (c)(3) status and became a recognized National Affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) working together to grow the FEI recognized Para Equestrian disciplines by helping to provide press, educational information, and symposiums for athletes with eligible permanent, measurable, physical impairments. <https://uspea.org/about-us/>