

Dressage Scribe

Duties of the Scribe

The job of the scribe is to be a record keeper for the judge's score sheet in dressage (or anywhere else, such as presentation or cones). In dressage, write down the competitor number and the judge's letter position (usually C, B, or E) on the score sheet. During the test, neatly write down everything the judge says. This way judges can keep their eyes on the competitors at all times. After the test is over, turn the sheet over to the judge to sign. Then turn the sheet over to the scoring personnel.

Preparing to Scribe

It is helpful to be familiar with the tests and movements when scribing. All ADS dressage tests can be found on their website- or ask the show secretary for copies if you would like to review them. Some judges have quite a few comments, and you need to keep up and have enough space. Remember, these remarks are for the benefit of the driver. Do not leave any out. It takes no special talent to scribe, but do some of this homework and you will be a step ahead.

Equipment Needed

GMHA will have everything you need. Make sure you are given a bell or whistle, several sharp pencils or pens, and a clipboard with all of the dressage tests before heading out to your ring.

At the Show

After signing in and attending the volunteer briefing, head out to your ring approx. 15 minutes early. Before starting, find out how the judge likes to dictate the comments. Some will give comments first, and then the score...some the other way around. Also, DO NOT talk to the judge unless spoken to. Endless chatter will distract everyone. Also, do not discuss any of the drivers or equines to the judge. He or she does not need to know certain gossip about the driver or equine. DO NOT discuss scores or comments from the judge, about drivers, to other competitors.

Conclusion

As a scribe, you have a wonderful learning opportunity. Listen to the comments and learn what the judges look for. This will help you become a better driver, and concentrate on the tips you have just learned from an experienced judge. Scribing is an important job -- your recordkeeping will be responsible for the final scores and placing of the competitors. The comments you write down will help competitors improve their driving. Try not to get distracted about watching the competitor and forget to record the information! Although this is an important job, you can also have fun and learn a lot!