



The official newsletter of the AKC Junior Organization
Spring 2018

A Message from Mari-Beth O'Neill

The Junior Ambassador program will launch on June 10, 2018. The program seeks to encourage and recognize Junior handlers, 4H members or any young person interested in purebred dogs or canine partners. It will provide youth opportunities to engage with clubs, community events, and AKC events, working to expand their knowledge and reward their dedication to the sport of dogs. The program provides suggested tasks, activities or events in which juniors may participate to earn the AKC Junior Ambassador pin.

A chart of suggested activities can be found on the [AKC website](#). Once the Junior has completed at least six activities from three categories, they submit signed participation forms and are issued a unique pin for each year they participate in the program. The AKC Junior Ambassador is a great way for clubs to utilize the productivity and dedication of Juniors as club members, as well as teach them the skills necessary to be future leaders in our sport. Questions about, or ideas and suggestions for the program can be emailed to juniors@akc.org or PublicEd@akc.org.

AKC is pleased to announce the [2018 Junior Scholarship Recipients](#). Twenty-three exceptional students were awarded scholarships ranging from \$500-\$2,000 to pursue their education.

The [criteria for the application](#) included having to submit documentation that they are members of a club and have volunteered to work, as well as an essay on how the applicant has been involved with providing education about purebred dogs within their school and/or community.

If you have already qualified for the AKC National Championship, please submit your transcript and permission form.

CONTACT US

Young Writers on the Web

The Dog Writers Association of America is excited to announce a new program for writers under the age of 18. Young writers are encouraged to submit stories about dogs for possible publication on a special section on the DWAA website, and potentially in our newsletter Ruff Drafts. Mara Bovsun, features editor at *AKC Family Dog*, will work with selected young writers to help polish submissions for publications. Special recognition and awards are also available, so start writing!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sporting Dog Seminar Open to Juniors

The Michigan Sporting Dog Association invites Juniors to attend their upcoming Sporting Dog Seminar free of charge! Juniors may select eight breeds to study over the weekend. The seminar is scheduled for June 23-24 in Ortonville, MI.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Poodle Club of America Junior Education

What's up With the Poodle Club of America Juniors?

Well...they are up to learning and achieving and experiencing and forming great friendships with poodles in tow!

This year at PCA there were 9 entries in Conformation as well as 2 entries in Obedience and Agility. Congratulations to EVERY Junior who was able to attend, experience and enjoy!



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Featured Juniors

Annika Dechert

I have never lived without a dog – actually multiple dogs – until I moved away to college. The last two years have made it very clear to me that once I’m finished with college, I never want to be outside of the dog circle. As a geology major, executive board member of the Geology Club, and event director for InterVarsity (IV) Christian Fellowship at Occidental College, I stay pretty busy. Through field trips into the desert, lab reports, and IV events, most of my weekends are booked solid, so I am unable to attend many dog shows while at school. This adjustment to my involvement in the dog

fancy has reaffirmed how important this community is to me.

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Coady Egan

I first started showing dogs in the early 2000s, taking my mixed-breed dog Rocky to our local 4-H dog training group. Under the guidance of Ms. Rita LaPointe and the Cave Canem 4-H group in Massachusetts, students learned how to handle our dogs in obedience, present them in conformation, and understand the health and well-being of our dogs through knowledge tests.

After a few years working with Rocky, our family brought home Sadie, a Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen. With the arrival of my first purebred dog, we started showing in AKC and 4-H.

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Shahntae Martinez

My name is Shahntae Martinez. I am 18 years old and have been involved with AKC Dog Shows for about 5 years. I started in my local 4-H Dog Program, which I have taken part of for 12 years now. My very first 4-H leader had gotten my sister involved in dog shows and I happened to just follow in her footsteps years later.

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[Junior Clinics](#)

[Junior Seminars](#)

[Jrs on Facebook](#)

Junior Photo Gallery



Congratulations to Haley Bouchard on earning her
MACH



Junior Handler with a Cane Corso



Celeste Johnson with Pembroke Welsh Corgi Aeden, dressed up as the Queen of England and her Royal Corgi on Halloween.



Bryce and King earned a Junior qualification at the HCARC Hunt Test last August.



Sun Maid Kennel Club - Regional Competition, February 3, 2018

Sun Maid KC offered the following scholarships: \$1,250 to Best Junior and \$750 for the three runners-up.

Special thanks to the clubs offering Scholarship money to Juniors!



Farm Dog Big E



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