The official newsletter of the AKC Junior Organization  
Winter 2018

A Message from Mari-Beth O'Neill

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and joyful holiday season! Now back to school, and enjoying activities with your dogs.

This year AKC introduced the AKC Junior Recognition Program, which gives juniors competing in any AKC event credit/points for a participation, earning qualifying scores, placements and titles. The program launched March 1 of 2017. AKC is pleased to award the inaugural Scholarships for the top 4 Juniors who competed in a minimum of three different competitive AKC Events.

The First and Second Place Scholarships are generously offered by Carolyn and Gary Koch in memory of GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble.

First place receiving a $3,000 Scholarship is Avery Adams, from Belleville, Ill. Avery competed in Agility, Obedience, Rally and Junior Showmanship. Avery competed with her Border Collies and English Springer Spaniel.

Second Place, receiving a $2,000 Scholarship is David Frasca, from St. Charles, MO. David competed in Agility, Obedience and Rally with Golden Retrievers and Standard Schnauzers.

Third Place, receiving a $1,000 Scholarship offered by the AKC National Junior Organization is Destiny Lytle from Palmer, Alaska. Destiny competed in Agility, Junior Showmanship and Rally with Cardigan Welsh Corgis, German Shepherd Dogs and Brittanys.

Fourth Place, receiving a $500 Scholarship offered by the AKC National Junior Organization is Mary Claire Ctibor, from Milner, Georgia. Claire competed in AKC Hunt Tests, Junior Showmanship, and Rally- Claire competed with Brittanys.

The Junior Recognition Program is allowing AKC to track Juniors competing in all events. Please make sure your Junior number is on your entries. If you are competing in events other than Obedience, Rally and Agility, you will still need to submit the Junior Recognition Certificates.
The AKC Board of Directors approved $25,000 to be awarded as Junior Scholarships. The criteria for eligibility is to have been accepted at a college, junior college, or continuing education program beyond high school. The Junior must have participated in AKC Events and be a current member of an AKC Club. The application can be found on AKC.org. The Scholarship Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2018.

Have you tried Trick Dog yet? If not a great way to earn titles and do fun training with your dog!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

AKC National Championship

The Junior Showmanship Competition was the largest entry at the AKC National Championship. Congratulations to all who qualified to compete, demonstrating your handling skills by obtaining the five wins in Open with Competition as well as maintaining an academic grade point average of a 3.0 or equivalent. The 12 finalists this year were:

**Finals**
1st Place - Erin LaPlante, Doberman Pinscher
2nd Place - Johnathon Wehry, Spaniel (Cocker) ASCOB
3rd Place - KayCee Klang, Briard
4th Place - Samantha Van Buren, Chihuahua (Long Coat)

**Preliminary 1**
Adrianna R. Martin, Fox Terrier (Smooth)
Emma Rogers, Bloodhound
Erin LaPlante, Doberman Pinscher
Lily Mancini, Spaniel (English Springer)
Rachel Meyers, Dachshund (Longhaired)
Samantha Van Buren, Chihuahua (Long Coat)

**Preliminary 2**
Bailey Crader, Australian Shepherd
Emma Black, Lowchen
Johnathon Wehry, Spaniel (Cocker) ASCOB
KayCee Klang, Briard
Lydia Zemouri, Beauceron
Taylor Schwartz, Spaniel (Cocker) Parti
Featured Juniors

Shannon Soafer

I was a recipient of the 2009 and 2010 Junior Scholarship Award. In 2001, I began showing my family Great Dane in Junior Showmanship. My weekend hobby quickly developed into a passion to ensure the health and wellness of canine breeds and kindled my passion to become a veterinarian. I graduated in 2013 from Berry College with a Bachelor's of Science in Animal Science and a minor in Chemistry. At Berry College, I worked at the Berry Farm's dairy milking cattle and implementing protocols for harvesting and marketing embryos for sale through a student operated enterprise. I was also employed at the Gunby Equine Center and worked with our quarter horse herd. In 2014, I was admitted to the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2018. My passion for business and animal health caused me to apply to the executive board for Veterinary Business Management Association and be a committee chair for our annual community 5K/10K SCAVMA Scamper Race. I also was employed as a student research assistant on a clinical trial for paralyzed dogs.

I was the recipient of the Great Dane Club of American Carmody Scholarship in 2014 and 2015 and the AKC Humane Fund 2015 John D. Spurling Scholarship. My time inside and outside the classroom is preparing me to give back to the AKC community that jump started my career ambitions. It is my intended goal to operate and manage a mixed animal veterinary practice that embodies my passions for implementing innovative research, improving animal
My name is Emilee Cragg. I am 13 years old and live in Alaska. I have always been passionate about dogs. I started training my first dog, Rosco, an Australian Shepherd, when I was 10 years old. In February of 2015, I decided it was time for a new agility dog and flew down to Missouri and picked up Dash, a Miniature Schnauzer.

Dog training class was always the highlight of my week. Dash was a smart puppy, and we moved at a very fast pace. Soon we were both learning many new skills, such as Dantes, Jaakkos, and Lap turns.

Because agility equipment is expensive, and I wanted to train more than just at class, I decided to make my own equipment. For example, I made my own mini 3-foot-long mini teeter and jumps from pvc piping and 5 gallon buckets. I made a “tire jump” from a hula hoop attached to two trees.
Dash provided me many challenging training opportunities. When Dash started knocking bars, I put shoes down in two lines about a foot apart with a bar across each shoe and made him go as fast as he could through them. The purpose was so Dash would pay attention to his stride and make sure to jump high enough so as he would not knock down the bar. Some other challenges were different teeter totters. He only wanted to go up the one at class and feared other teeters. We worked a lot on overcoming his fear by giving him tons of treats as he went up the teeter. (I think he gained half a pound in weight from all those treats!) Also, Dash loves to bark and would forget what weave pole he was on because of his intense barking. Sometimes, he would even get distracted barking at the people around the agility course.

Recently at an agility seminar, I learned that if I keep eye contact almost all the time, he is less likely to bark and more likely to stay with me. It's cool to think about the fact that Dash is helping train me as well. When I stop connecting with him, he starts barking.

Despite some training obstacles, our trials this summer have gone well. Dash and I competed a total of eight trial days spread out over the summer. We won 9 clean run ribbons, 5 first place ribbons, 1 second place ribbon, and 1 title ribbon. Each event was a new adventure. I think we did awesome over the summer. With consistent training from my amazing agility teacher, Cindy Mildbrand, my goal is to compete in Reno, Nevada for the AKC National Agility Championships. I believe I have a true champion.

Tristen Tiegen

I received my JH Title this summer with my Chocolate Lab Wigeon.

My training was so much fun I would not trade it of the world! I worked a lot at home with my dog after school and on weekends running drills, but the thing I enjoyed the most was getting to work with Wayne and Glen Curtis at Fox Hollow Retrievers. We went to different places every day and did different things every day. My favorite things were blinds because you are always moving your arms and blowing whistles. Marks seemed to be easier to learn, especially when your dog is watching the bird, and then send them, and watch them hunt for it.

When I got to my first test I felt ready but the line felt so far away from the bird and then I got really nervous but when I was done everyone was happy for me and they thought that I did a good job. Now I am
working on my senior hunt test and we have 3 ribbons so far hopefully next summer we will be able to get our senior title.
Top 20 Juniors at the Doberman Pinscher National Specialty

Summer Solstice Cluster RHP Clinic, June 25, 2016
Best Junior, Evergreen Kennel Club
Andrew and Gabe, Des Moines Obedience Training Club
2018 Westminster Kennel Club