



The official newsletter of the AKC Junior Organization | January 2021

## A Message from Mari-Beth O'Neill

Greetings and Happy New Year! 2020 was a challenge for everyone however new opportunities to [participate in AKC Events virtually](#) were established by the Sports and Events Division, which allowed individuals to continue to participate in different events.

We congratulate all the Juniors who were eligible to compete at the AKC National Championship, and to those who received awards for their accomplishments. As a result of Covid-19, the AKC Board approved the allowance of a Junior who turned 18 on or after March 1, 2020 may continue to compete in any AKC Sport as a Junior until their 19th birthday or December 31, 2021 whichever comes first.

The [AKC Junior Scholarship Application](#) is available on the AKC Web Site. Criteria includes documentation of belonging to an AKC Club as well as an essay including how you maintained your involvement with your dog during Covid-19. Also posted is the [Scholarship Application for Juniors competing in Companion Events](#) and the [Scholarship Application for Juniors competing in Performance Events](#).

AKC will be establishing a series of webinars for Juniors. Please submit topics that you would like covered to assist in our planning for the upcoming year to [Juniors@akc.org](mailto:Juniors@akc.org).

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## Junior Recognition Program Awards

The AKC Junior Recognition Program, which gives juniors competing in any AKC event credit/points for participation, earning qualifying scores, placements and titles. AKC has seen growth in the number of Juniors competing in multiple events with their dogs since the inception in March of 2017.

AKC staff wishes to encourage the Juniors competing in AKC Events to try different events, and we are especially pleased that the number of Juniors competing in multiple events this past year has increased.

AKC is pleased to be able to award the AKC Junior Versatility Scholarships to the top 5 Juniors who competed in a minimum of three different competitive AKC Events, including the Virtual Rally, ACT and Trick Dog that were offered this year. The dates of competition were July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

The First, Second and Third 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 \$2,500 Scholarship is David Frasca from Weldon Springs, MO. David competed in Agility, Obedience, and Rally with a Border Collie, Golden Retriever and a Standard Schnauzer.

Second Place winning a \$1,500 Scholarship is Jada Sawhney, from Punto Gorda, FL. Jada competes in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Junior Showmanship and Trick Dog with her Golden Retrievers.

Third Place receiving a \$1,000 Scholarship is Amelia Greninger from Buffalo, MN. Amelia competes in Agility and Rally with her Golden Retrievers and in Scent Work with her Belgian Malinois.

The Remaining Scholarships are offered by the AKC Junior Department.

Fourth Place Scholarship of \$500 is awarded to Ella Palutis from Wentzville, MO. Ella Competes in Agility, Obedience and Rally with her Australian Shepherd and Border Collie.

Fifth Place Scholarship of \$500 is awarded to Shannon Piquet, from Pinellas Park, Florida. Shannon participates in Junior Showmanship, Obedience, and Rally with her Beagle and Rat Terrier.

We would also like to acknowledge the Juniors who were ranked sixth thru tenth:

Lily Bennett, from Orangevale, CA. Lily competed in Junior Showmanship, Fast Cat and Farm Dog Certified with her Cirneco Dell'Etna and Miniature American Shepherd.

Alyssa Lanier, from Ocklawaha, FL. Alyssa competed in Agility, Junior Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Trick Dog with her All-American Dog, Russell Terrier and Parson Russell Terrier.

Burlyenne Mejeris, Top Junior in Obedience, from Old Town, FL. In addition to Obedience,

Burlynnne competed in Fast Cat, Junior Showmanship and Rally with her Australian Shepherds.

Alec Clark, from Nicholasville, KY, competed in Junior Showmanship, Obedience and Rally with his Vizsla, English Springer Spaniel and Beagle.

Ava Harta from Menifee, CA. Ava competed in Junior Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Trick Dog with her Dachshund and her Flat Coated Retriever.

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## Co-Ownning Dogs

Juniors have benefited from the many breeders and exhibitors who have been willing to offer a co-ownership on a dog, allowing for the Junior to show the dog in Junior Showmanship. These relationships allow for mentoring and opportunities for the Junior to gain knowledge about different breeds grooming, presentation and maintaining the dog. It is important that expectations of the exhibiting of the dog are defined or discussed throughout the time in which the dog is co-owned as well as the return of the dog or the agreement as to when the co-ownership ends, and or if the dog is to be transferred to include or remove other owners. Open communication is key to avoiding misunderstandings.

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## 2020 AKC National Championship

This year we were pleased that the AKC Board approved additional funds to be awarded for the Scholarships to the finalists:

First Place \$5,000

Second Place \$4,000

Third Place \$3,000

Fourth Place \$2,000

The other 8 finalists will receive a \$500 Scholarship.

All funds are maintained by AKC. A form will be issued to each recipient to submit for payment directly to the College when enrolled.



2020 Best Junior Handler: Jacob Waters with GCHG CH Eagle's The Wolverine (Miniature Pinscher)



Best Junior Handler: Jacob Waters, Miniature Pinscher; 2nd Place: Abigail Van Meter, English Setter; 3rd Place: Emma Rogers, Great Dane; 4th Place: Katelyn Meyers, Rottweiler



### Finalists

Left to right first row: Ryley Kirkland, Treeing Walker Coonhound; O'Malley McGee, Pointer; Zoey Morgan Keffer, Golden Retriever; Abigail Van Meter, English Setter; Allison Yoho, Golden Retriever. Back Row: Marit Alsager, Manchester Terrier; Emma Gallaway, Maltese; Bevin Towell, Papillon; Jacob Waters, Miniature Pinscher; Katelyn Meyers, Rottweiler; Emma Rogers, Great Dane; Camilla Granata, Russell Terrier.





[See Full Show Results](#)

## Canine Partners Eligible for AKC Junior Showmanship

The AKC Board approved a proposal submitted by the Delegate Junior Sub-Committee and AKC staff for an 18-month pilot program to allow Juniors with AKC Canine Partners-listed dogs to be eligible to compete in Conformation Junior Showmanship. The implementation of allowing Juniors to handle AKC Canine Partners will allow new young people and their families to participate in AKC, supporting the future of AKC Clubs and events,

How will the judge know what breed is being exhibited if a mixed breed dog? The entry requires a breed specification, which will be where the Junior species the breed which they will present in the ring. This mimics the 4-H system, in which the Junior specifies, they are exhibiting their Canine Partner, lab mix, as a Labrador Retriever. The dog being exhibited will be required to have an AKC Canine Partner number. All dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program are recorded as an All-American Dog for competition purposes.

Eligibility of Canine Partners to be entered in Conformation Junior Showmanship would

be limited to All-Breed shows, or events holding all-breed Junior Showmanship.

The Delegate Junior Sub-Committee voted unanimously to support the implementation of a pilot program allowing Juniors to handle an AKC Canine Partner in Junior Showmanship.

The effective date for the eligibility of Canine Partners to be eligible to compete in AKC Events is July 1, 2021. The impact of the pilot program will be assessed to submit to the AKC Board in the fall of 2022.

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## Junior Showcase Events

Clubs may offer standalone Junior Showcase Events for Junior Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility. A series of Junior Showcase Events is being offered in Arizona this month and being filmed. [Additional information may be found here.](#)

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## Royal Canin Puppy Stakes

Junior Bryonna Thompson handled her Smooth Collie to a Herding Group win in the Royal Canin Puppy Stakes competition.



## Junior Open Agility World Championship: How to Apply

Do you and your dog do agility? Each summer the AKC has a team of Juniors that travel to Europe to compete at the Junior Open Agility World Championship. Interested? Susan Cochran, the team coach, explains how the team is chosen and how you and your dog can apply.

Read More



## Junior Stories

Thank you to Avery and Mara for sharing their experiences in Juniors. Want to share your own story? Send it to [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org).

Read More



Avery Miller & Ammo



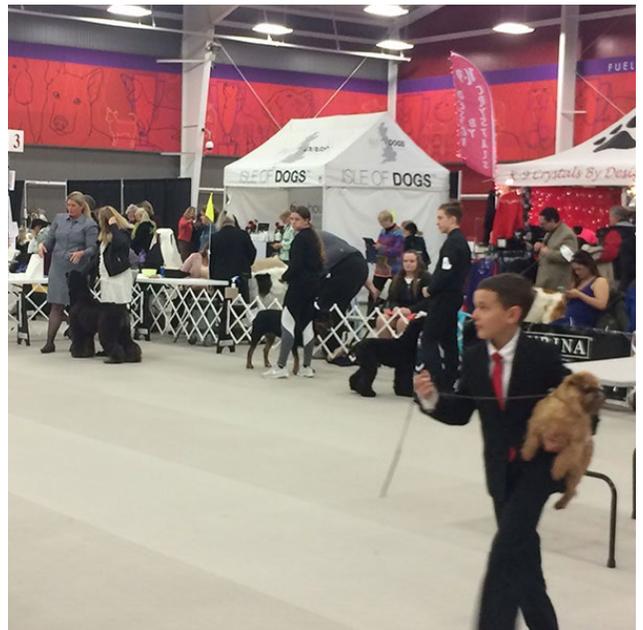
Mara Wacker & Tyson

## Junior Photo Gallery

### Columbia MO Kennel Club Junior Handling Clinic

*Thank you to Grace Freeman for organizing the event and sending pictures!*





### Around the Ring



Fenic Towell was awarded Best Junior and received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Ozarks Kennel Club in Springfield, MO.



The Towell Family



Mikala Seymour and her St. Bernard, Ellington, compete in Conformation, Rally, Obedience, and weight-pulling. Ellington is also being trained as a Therapy Dog.



The Waters Family with Jacob, Best Junior Handler at the AKC National Championship.



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Junior Seminars

Jrs on Facebook



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