

Parent Club Best Practices

Welcome to an AKC Junior Club

NEW MEMBER'S INFORMATION MISSION STATEMENT: To provide a club in which Juniors can gain knowledge, skills, and mentoring in AKC Sports and in turn support the growth of new members in our dog world.

WHO BRINGS AKC JUNIOR CLUBS TO YOU? Each AKC Junior Club is sponsored by an All-Breed Club that correlates with their given location. Mentors support each club by helping the Juniors learn and have fun. Other members of the dog community help to provide seminars, workshops, and overall support for the club.

AKC JUNIOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMS: A person who is 5 years old may join AKC Junior Club and be a member through 18 years old. AKC Junior Club has special programs and activities for the following age groups. • PeeWee: 5 to under 9 years old (non-competitive) • Junior: 9 to under 12 years old • Intermediate: 12 to under 15 years old • Senior: 15 to 18 years old

WHO HELPS IN AKC JUNIOR CLUBS? AKC Junior Club is really a family program. Your parents and family are important in AKC. They help you with project work and other activities. AKC Junior Club members are also helped by volunteer mentors. Every AKC Junior Club needs one or more adult mentors. These mentors teach boys and girls, organize the club, help officers and help at meetings, and tell parents about AKC. There are different kinds of AKC Junior Club mentors: • Leader: One mentor will lead the club and is in direct contact with the All-Breed Club. They will also be a member of the All-Breed Club. • Mentors: This includes instructors to teach skills and those who volunteer for events (judging, try it out events, etc.). Mentors must be at least 18 years old. • Teen Mentors: Seniors who are appointed from their mentors to assist in teaching, instruction, or help mentor younger kids. The program coordinator helps organize clubs, recommends activities and materials, coordinates national events, and trains mentors.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN AKC JUNIOR CLUBS?

The five activity areas include:

1. **Business Meetings.** the youth will run at least four business meetings a year and will be run like a regular club. Youth will elect a President, Vice President,

Secretary, and Treasurer. Each job will help run the club smoothly but also give them a chance to learn about how to run clubs for future.

2. Junior Showmanship: to instruct and help support kids through their journey competing in Juniors.

3. Companion/Performance: to teach them how to be successful in AKC Companion Events; more advanced kids will move onto AKC Performance Events. The progression will start with basic skills in Home Manners, CGC, Trick Dog, and will advance to Rally, Obedience, Agility, etc. The program is designed to start with the basic skill and move through the events.

4. Knowledge. to help Juniors gain expertise in basic dog skills such as anatomy, breed identification, and health and care. It will also include a "Try it Out" series where the kids get an opportunity to explore other AKC events, explore jobs related to dogs, etc. A "Knowledge Fest" competition is being developed for Juniors to compete in.

5. Volunteer/Community Service. To volunteer at the All-Breed Club events, fundraisers and giving back to the community.