



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## Parent Club Best Practices

### **Juniors – Attracting, Engaging Retaining**

**Bylaws:** Review your bylaws. Include a non-voting membership for Juniors. For greater involvement, allow the Juniors to hold non-voting positions in committees.

**Junior Coordinator:** Appoint a person who will serve as an advocate for Juniors in the club and serve as a liaison to the AKC.

**Committee:** The Board may establish a committee to help the Junior Coordinator implement the chosen activities.

Recognizing Juniors:

1. Locate Juniors participating in the breed. A search is available on the AKC Website - Junior Recognition Program Point Summary: [American Kennel Club - Events \(akc.org\)](http://www.akc.org). You can search by event type or all events, and by year. This search provides a list of every Junior that has competed with the breed within the time frame selected.
2. Recruit these Juniors to join your club. AKC Staff can assist in contacting the Juniors.
3. Establish awards for Juniors competing with the breed.
4. Scholarships – establish qualifying criteria.
5. Stipends approved by Board for attendance at Qualifying Events such as AKC National Championship, Westminster, Junior Open Agility World Championship, National Specialty etc.

## **National Specialty:**

1. Consider reduced entry fees at National for Juniors.
2. Possible functions/gifts for Juniors
  - a. Educational activities (handling, grooming, breeding, club management, etc.)
  - b. Social (ice cream or pizza parties)
  - c. Specialized goodie bags
  - d. Junior Showcase for Companion Events
  - e. Junior Top Twenty by event
3. Recruit Juniors to assist at the show
  - a. Stewarding at the show and trials
  - b. Staffing welcome table
  - c. Assist with fundraising
  - d. Clean-up
  - e. Assist with trophies

## Events/programs throughout the year

1. Column in newsletter
2. Educational seminar/webinar
3. Social media assistance for the club
4. Mentoring of Juniors throughout the year
  - a. Match a Junior with a mentor in their geographical area who is willing to provide additional guidance.
  - b. Match a Junior with a mentor in the junior's area of interest. (Breeding, Conformation, Companion Events, Performance Events)
5. Establishing a list of breeders who might share a dog with a Junior.
6. Volunteer opportunities
  - a. AKC Meet the Breeds® participation.
  - b. Public Education Activities in their own community – Parades, etc.
  - c. Education in their school about the breed and events.