



**JUNIOR
PROGRAM
COMPANION**

USASA Junior Program Companion

The USASA junior Program Companion is a reference guide, meant to be used in addition to the AKC Junior Showmanship Regulation booklet. Please refer to the AKC published booklet for actual rules and regulations, as this material is only for guidance purposes.

Original Companion created by Nikki Marenbech Hengy – April 2004
Ninth Revision – July 2017

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USASA JUNIOR PROGRAM MISSION

USASA Juniors are our vision and hope for the future of the Australian Shepherd and our handlers of tomorrow. The values, attitudes and responsibility learned through junior handling will serve our youth throughout their lives. The mission of the USASA Junior program is to promote and encourage responsible ownership, education, training and handling techniques for our youth, as well as becoming active in USASA. This program is designed to offer nationwide interaction, education and the measurement of achievement. The vision of the program is to develop the knowledge of today's Juniors, to enable them to be rewarding exhibitors & breeders of tomorrow.

GETTING STARTED IN JUNIOR HANDLING

Junior Showmanship shall be judged solely on the ability and skill of the juniors in handling their dogs as in the breed ring. The show qualities of the dogs shall not be considered. Junior handling encourages Juniors to experience competition with their peers, while learning the responsibilities of dog care and training skills. *Good sportsmanship* is emphasized among Juniors at all levels. Professional handlers at the Junior age level are not eligible for competition.

Juniors who are at least 9 years of age and are not over 18 years of age on the day of the show may compete in Junior Handling.

Juniors must apply for an AKC Junior Handler Number prior to entering any event. You need only apply once. Numbers are easily obtained by calling, emailing, or by going online:

AKC Junior Handler Number Request

Phone: 919-233-9767

Email: juniors@akc.org

Website: <http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/>

Once a junior has obtained their AKC Junior Handler Number, they can register to be a USASA Junior Member by registering with the United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) by contacting the current USASA Membership Chair, or via the online registration form at:

USASA Junior Handler Registration Membership Chair

Website: <http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/board-of-directors-and-committees>

Website Junior Handler Application: <http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/membership/online-membership-application1>

Dogs being exhibited in any junior handling event must be AKC registered, although they may be neutered or spayed. Bitches in season are **NOT** eligible to show. The dog must be owned or co-owned by the Junior or the Junior's parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, including any step or half relations, as well as any permanent resident of the Junior's household, as recorded with the AKC at the time entries close; or an application for transfer of ownership must be sent to the AKC by the new junior owner within **SEVEN DAYS after the last day of the show**. A Junior Handler Signature Form can be found in the Junior Section on AKC's website. When adding a junior handler as a co-owner of an AKC dog, be sure to include the original dog's registration with this form and contact AKC for the appropriate registration fee to include with the form.

Entering an AKC dog show requires that the Entry Forms be submitted at a time prior to the start of the actual event, usually two to three weeks in advance. This is called the **CLOSING DATE**. Forms may be handwritten or typed and mailed in or completed online, as long as they are received prior to the Closing Date. The dog's registration number and the Junior's AKC Junior Handling number must be on the Entry Form. There are also internet services that will charge a small fee to electronically enter events. The most common AKC entry website is www.infodog.com.

If the junior has never shown before, it is recommended that they attend at least one dog show and observe the Junior Handling classes. All AKC sanctioned dog shows will have a Superintendent present, where general information on AKC and sanctioned events may be available.

GROOMING AND EQUIPMENT



A well-groomed dog shows that the Junior is properly able to care for their dog's coat and well-being. Importantly, the dog should be clean, brushed, free from mats, and have their nails clipped or ground.

Some basic grooming guidelines:

- Brush your dog frequently to promote coat growth and healthy skin.
- Check for mats behind the ears and under the legs. If you cannot remove them yourself, ask for some help from someone who can.
- Check your dog's teeth for excessive tarter build-up. There are many dog dental care products available – like toothbrushes and liquid solutions.

- Keep your dog's nails short. File, clip or grind them once a week. The ideal length is when your dog walks across a hard surface; you can't hear the nails click on the floor.
- Bathe your dog before the show with a good dog shampoo. Rinse well, because any shampoo left in the coat will make the skin itch and dry out.
- Blow drying your dog will lessen the chance for matting and gives a nice finish. Make sure you use a setting that has no heat, as heat will damage the coat.
- Trim excessive fur where needed, like the fringe on the ears, tail, and paws. Ask for help from someone who knows how to do this until you are able to do this yourself.
Remember that excessive trimming and sculpting of any kind is NOT ALLOWED!

Using the proper length lead and collar is very important for maintaining proper control of the dog in the ring.

Leads come in a variety of lengths, and are usually either leather or nylon. Common lengths are 24, 36, and 48 inches. The handler will want to keep any excess lead tucked away in their hand, so the appearance is always neat and clean, therefore a shorter lead may work better for some. Some handlers have very fast moving Aussies who will get slightly ahead of them. In those cases, a longer lead may be more appropriate. Remember to use what is comfortable and easy to handle for you.

Collars also come in a variety of lengths and styles. Most commonly used are extra fine link collars, in either a choke or martingale. For a choke style, bitches may use a collar as small as 16 inches, while males may require as large as 20 or 22 inches. Collars should fit snugly going on, and rest behind the ears, at the top of the neck.

DRESS CODE

Handlers should dress in a professional manner, showing respect for the judge and their ring. Ladies may wear suits or blouses and skirts (skirts should be no shorter than 1 inch above your knee). Pants and skorts are also acceptable, although not preferred. Gentlemen may wear suits or trousers, dress shirts and ties (ties should be securely fastened with a tie tack). Less formal attire is permitted. However, casual clothing such as jeans, shorts, cut-offs, miniskirts, sweats, midriff baring shirts, halter tops, flip-flops and the like are strongly discouraged.

It is a good idea to wear jackets or skirts/pants that have pockets. Most handlers use bait, and pockets can really come in handy!

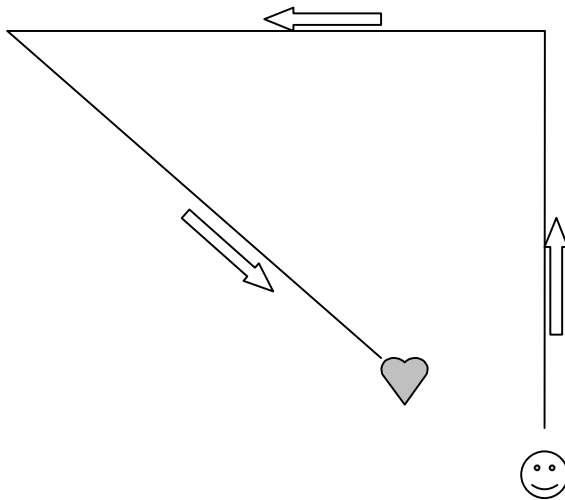
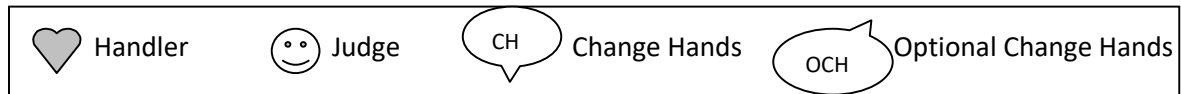
Shoes should be rubber soled, with no rising heel. The rubber soled shoes hold two purposes – to give a better foot-hold when gaiting, as well as not being as harsh if the handler accidentally steps on a dog's paw.

Hair should be off of the face, and not distracting. Many handlers will opt to wear their hair in buns or pony tails. Excessive jewelry is not recommended

A good rule of thumb: Dress for success and don't forget to wear your smile! ☺

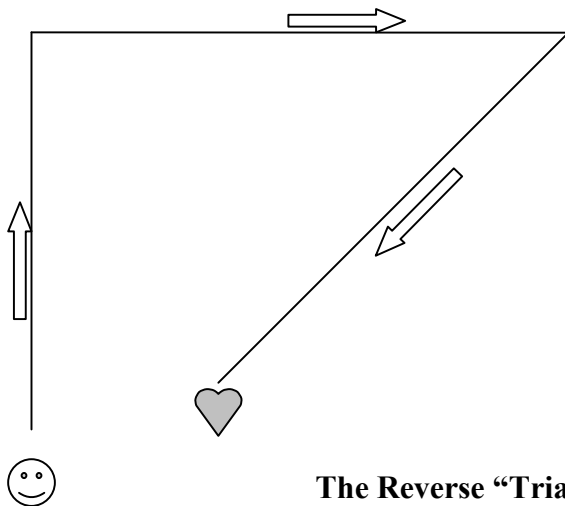
JUNIOR HANDLING PATTERNS

**These are common junior handling patterns.
Judges may or may not use them, or even have different ones.**



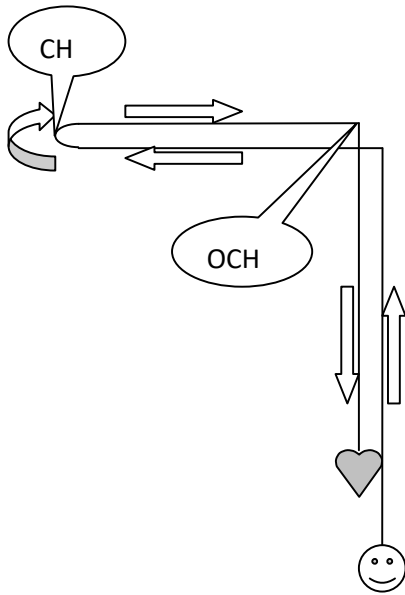
The "Triangle"

Typically, the judge will be close to a ring side. The handler will travel on ring side straight away from the judge to the ring corner. Handler will follow ring side to far corner. Handler will return back to judge on a 45 degree angle. Handler may want to circle turn the dog in front of the judge, depending of if large sized dog. Directional change turn is also allowed. Handler should slow down about 10 feet from judge and present a self-stack at about 6 feet from judge.



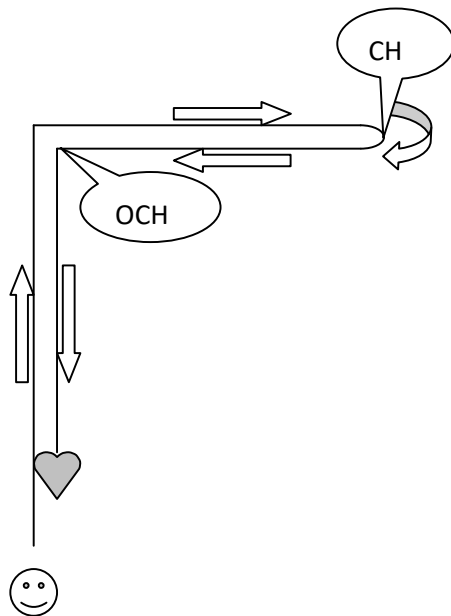
The Reverse "Triangle"

This pattern is done in a mirror or backwards image of the Triangle. Handler will always travel on the ring side. Handler should give thought to the return angle – it can be a little tricky if not prepared.



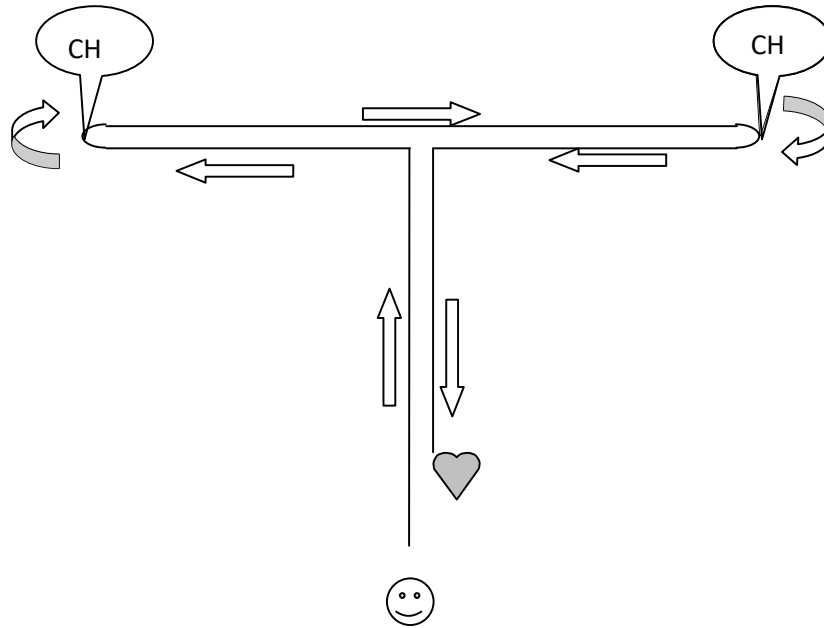
The "L"

Typically, the judge will be close to a ring side. The handler will travel on the ring side straight away from the judge to the ring corner. Handler will follow ring side to far corner. Handler must change hands at far corner (Cross-over turn). Optional change hands at return corner – advantage: puts handler on inside of ring instead of ring side, allowing for more presentation room of the self-stack.



The "Reverse L"

This pattern is done in a mirror or backwards image of the L. Handler will always travel on ring side.

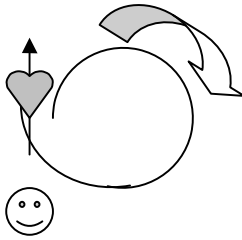


The "T"

This pattern is done with the judge in the middle of a ring side (verses a corner). Handler will travel straight away from judge to opposite ring side, in the middle of the ring. At opposite ring side, handler turns to the left to ring corner. Change hands and travel to opposite far corner. Change hands and return to point of original turn (midway), return back to judge and present. (Self-stack)

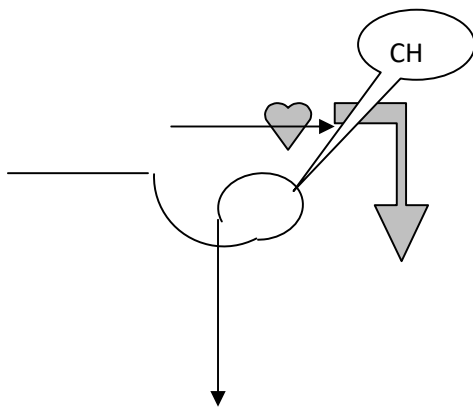
JUNIOR HANDLING TURNS

These turns are some of the more common turns that Handlers will encounter.



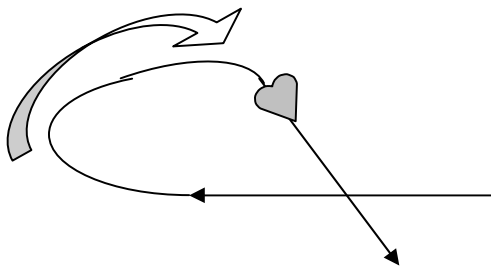
“The Courtesy Turn”

The Handler and dog move together in this pattern. No changing of hands. This turn can be done coming from either way. In this diagram, the Team would have started to the slight left of the judge, crossed in front of, circled on the right of the judge, and the end of the turn the Handler's back is to the judge's front, and the Team moves away from the judge in the desired direction.



“The Cross-Over Turn”

The Handler and dog move together going into this turn, come apart, and go back together. This turn is useful for “L's.” This turn can be done coming from either way. The Handler and dog are traveling to the right, with the lead in the Handler's right hand. The Handler will pause in forward movement, extend right arm out to guide the dog to turn in towards the Handler, to cross the dog in front of the Handler. At midpoint of this turn, the Handler will bring forward their left hand to meet the right and change hands, at the same time moving their body in way of the new direction. Dog and Handler should end up facing the same direction, in this example the dog is on the left.



“The Directional Change Turn”

The Handler and dog move together in this pattern. No changing of hands. This turn is useful for “Triangles.” This turn can be done coming from either way. In this diagram, the Team would be traveling to the left, coming to a ring corner, Handler and dog turn to the right, crossing over their original path, and begin to go in their new direction. (Usually coming back on a diagonal mat.)

THE AWARDS PROGRAM

The USASA Junior Awards Program exists to recognize the achievements of individuals for their Handling efforts and Performance scores through training and exhibiting AKC registered Australian Shepherds at AKC sanctioned Junior Handling shows, and performance events.

A Junior **MUST** be an USASA Junior Member in order to accumulate points and to be eligible for awards. Points begin to accumulate on the date you become a member. Once you have become an USASA Junior Member, you will remain a member until you age out of the AKC Junior Program. The Annual Year will run from January 1st to December 31st, inclusive.

JUNIOR HANDLING

The Awards Program standings are tabulated by using a point system, whereas one point shall be awarded for each exhibitor that the youth places over in their entered class. In example, the first place Junior in a class of 5 would receive 4 points; the fourth place Junior would receive 1 point. Any Junior who is awarded a Best Junior Handler win, will be given 1 point for each exhibitor the youth places over in all the classes. Best Junior wins supersede class points. Competition need not be present in the class for points to be awarded for Best Junior Handler wins. In example, a total entry of 30 juniors – 15 Open Juniors, 5 Open Intermediate, 1 Open Senior, 9 Master Class – the Open Senior wins Best Junior. Although there were no other juniors in their age division class, the Best Junior Handler win will earn a total of 29 points. Shows offering Reserve Best Junior Handler awards will be calculated in the same manner as Best Junior points, whereas Reserve Best Junior wins will supersede class points. Point calculations will be 2 less than the total junior entry (subtract yourself and the Best Junior). In the above example, the Reserve Best junior would earn 28 points. Placements and/or Best/Reserve Best Junior Handler wins from the Master Class will be calculated in the same manner as above, however the junior's status will remain in their Open Division class for year-end awards.

Juniors **must** receive a **minimum of TEN (10) points** during the Annual Year to be eligible for any of the Awards available.

Juniors will carry their points with them for the Annual Year, regardless if they change from Novice to Open, or age up into another Class. When a change in class occurs, the Junior will not be placed into the new class **until** they have competed in that particular class.

Junior Class

At least 9 years old and under 12 years old on the day of the show

Intermediate Class

At least 12 years old and under 15 years old on the day of the show

Senior Class

At least 15 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show

Master Class

At least 9 years old and under 18 years on the day of the show, who have won 10 Best Junior Handler wins with competition. The calendar for this class will be consistent with the eligibility dates for the AKC National Championship

Novice Classes

Juniors who, at the time entries close, have not won three (3) first place wins in a Novice Class, with competition. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior award where there IS competition counts as one of the needed three (3) wins. Upon completion of three (3) first place and/or Best Junior wins, the Junior is required to transfer all other entries (including closed entries) to the Open classes. If the junior should happen to be at a show when the transfer from Novice to Open happens, they must notify the Superintendent or Show Secretary **at least one-half hour prior** to the scheduled start of Junior Showmanship judging at the show.

Open Classes

Juniors who have won three (3) first place wins in a Novice Class, with competition.

It is the responsibility of each USASA Junior to maintain their own records and not rely solely on the USASA Junior Committee to do this for you. AKC has conveniently added a FREE way to track and double check your wins by visiting their website at www.akc.org. Juniors can follow up on their Showmanship points, ownership of dogs, and their Performance legs and titles by viewing/printing off their FREE Junior Showmanship/Performance Report within their My AKC Account. The report can be accessed from the AKC website by requesting a **Junior Handler Access Code** from the following link:

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jrauth_request.cfm

Access codes are available to all registered junior handlers.

JUNIOR HANDLING YEAR END AWARDS

TOP TEN: There will be an annual Award given to each of the top 10 Juniors in the 3 age classes (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior), the Novice & Open classes will be combined.

TOP DIVISION WINNER: There will be an annual Award given to the top first place Open Junior Handler in the 3 age classes (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior).

TOP JUNIOR HANDLER OF THE YEAR: There will be an annual Award given to the top overall Junior Handler from all classes, whoever has the highest amount of points.

SPECIAL AWARDS: If a current USASA Junior and their Aussie have a special accomplishment at an AKC event, which is above and beyond the awards we offer within the Junior Program, a special Above and Beyond Award may be given. Please submit pertinent information to the USASA Junior Committee Chair for review and consideration.

Some examples of Above and Beyond Awards:

Best/Reserve Junior Handler at Invitationals (i.e.: AKC National Championship/Westminster/), Top AKC Herding Junior, etc.

In all Awards categories, in the case of a tie both Juniors will win.



THE AWARDS PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE

The USASA Junior Committee Offers a Performance Program for USASA Junior Members. All tabulations are required to be from AKC sanctioned events, from the following competitive areas:

Agility
Herding
Obedience
Rally
Tracking

Juniors are required to order Junior Handler Certification Forms, form CEJRH1; from AKC (they are free). A form must be filled out completely and correctly with each event you enter. The Junior **MUST** make sure the Judge's printed and signed name is on this form at the time they receive a qualify Score/Placement. One copy goes in with the Judge's records and the other copy is kept by the Junior.

Juniors can receive form CEJRH1 by contacting:

AKC Event Operations
Attn: Juniors
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390
(919) 233-9767
Email: juniors@akc.org

or

AKC Website
<http://images.akc.org/pdf/CEJRH1.pdf>

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that juniors keep track of all their copies of these Certifications. If, for any reason, AKC does not receive this Certification from the judge's book, it is the Junior's responsibility to get a copy to the AKC Junior's Office listed above.

USASA Junior Program Companion

An example of form CEJRH1 (5//15):



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

JUNIOR HANDLER CERTIFICATION

Date _____

Event Name _____

Name of Junior _____ Handler Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Dog Name _____

If Dog Not Owned by Junior,
Relationship of Dog Owner to Junior _____

Reg. # _____

Breed _____

TYPE OF EVENT

- Obedience Tracking Rally Hunt Test
- Lure Coursing Field Trial Agility Coursing Ability Test
- Coonhound Herding Earthdog

Class/Stake _____ Score/Placement _____

I certify that the above named Junior Handler did compete in the above-referenced class/
stake and received the score and/or placement indicated.

Printed Name of Judge, Trial Secretary or AKC Representative Date

Signature of Judge, Trial Secretary or AKC Representative Date

8051 Arco Corporate Drive • Raleigh, NC 27617-3390
For a Junior Handler number, please call (919) 233-9767 or email juniors@akc.org.

CEJRH1(5/15)

Top Copy to Junior
Bottom Copy to AKC w/Judge's Book

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE YEAR END AWARDS

TOP TEN: There will be an annual Award given to the top 10 Juniors in the 5 separate divisions: (Agility, Obedience, Herding, Rally, and Tracking).

TOP DIVISION WINNER: There will be an annual Award given to the top first place Junior in each of the 5 separate divisions: (Agility, Obedience, Herding, Rally, and Tracking).

TOP PERFORMANCE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR: There will be an annual Award given to the Top Overall Performance Junior of all divisions, whoever has the highest amount of points.

SPECIAL AWARDS: If a current USASA Junior and their Aussie have a special accomplishment at an AKC event, which is above and beyond the awards we offer within the Junior Program, a special Above and Beyond Award may be given. Please submit pertinent information to the USASA Junior Committee Chair for review and consideration. (Some examples of Above and Beyond Awards: Obtaining VCD1 or MACH titles, etc.)

PERFORMANCE TOP TEN AND DIVISION JUNIOR

For each of the five competitive divisions, the Top Ten Juniors and a single Top Junior will be recognized within the Junior Program Year, January 1st through December 31st, inclusive. **All forms are to be postmarked by February 15th** for the respective year. We encourage juniors to submit copies of their junior forms and title certificates as soon as they receive them throughout the year.

Awards will be given for:

- Top Agility Junior
- Top Herding Junior
- Top Obedience junior
- Top Rally Junior
- Top Tracking Junior
- Top Coursing Ability Test Junior

Agility, Herding, Obedience, Rally, and Coursing Ability Test

The Junior who receives the highest point sum of scores shall be the winner.

A junior does not need to earn all legs for a title within that given Junior Year. Junior forms should be turned in for all qualifying runs so that ties can be broken by score points, or if needed, Junior Title Earner Points.

Tracking

AKC only awards a “Pass/Fail” score for this area of competition. The Junior who receives the highest amount of Junior Title Earner Points shall be the winner.

For all divisions of competition, in the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.

*****FOR ALL DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION*****

The Junior is responsible for mailing a photocopy of the appropriate form indicating a qualifying score or passing leg to the USASA Performance Coordinator as well as copies of the Junior's Title Certificates when received from AKC. Certificates and forms can also be scanned and sent via email.

PERFORMANCE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

The USASA Junior Committee will recognize the Performance Junior of the Year.

To qualify and be eligible for the Performance Junior of the Year, the Junior must complete at least one title in two separate divisions of competition within that Junior Year.

Note: This does not mean that all of the qualifying scores/passing legs for that title must be completed in that given Junior Year, only that the title is awarded by AKC in that given Junior Year.

Because different areas of competition have different qualifying systems, the USASA Junior Committee has assigned a point value to be given to each possible performance title earned. The point value will be referred to as the Junior Title Earner Points.

The Junior with the highest number of accumulated Junior Title Earner Points will be the winner.

In the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.

REMEMBER: The Junior is responsible for mailing a photocopy of the **AKC Title Certificates for the Junior – not the dog** – to the USASA Junior Committee Performance Coordinator. (AKC will send a title certificate for the dog and, since Junior Handling Certificates have been sent in with the qualifying wins for that title, they will also send a Title Certificate for the Junior Handler.) Alternatively, the Title Certificate for the Junior can be scanned and emailed. **Deadline for submitting forms is February 15th.**

If a Junior has turned in all Title Certifications needed for a title, and they do not receive both certificates in the mail, they need to immediately contact the Juniors' office at AKC (contact information given on page 12). If a Title Certification (Form CEJRH1) has somehow gotten lost or misplaced, the office will ask for a copy of the Certification that the Junior kept for their files.

It is the responsibility of each USASA Junior to maintain their own records and not rely solely on the USASA Junior Committee to do this for you. AKC has conveniently added a FREE way to track and double check your wins by visiting their website at www.akc.org. Juniors can follow up on their Showmanship points, ownership of dogs, and their Performance legs and titles by viewing/printing off their FREE Junior Showmanship/Performance Report within their My AKC Account.

The report can be accessed from the AKC website by requesting a **Junior Handler Access Code** from the following link:

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jrauth_request.cfm

Access codes are available to all registered junior handlers.

JUNIOR TITLE EARNER POINTS

	5	10	15	20	25
AGILITY	NA/NAJ/ NAP/NJP/ NF/NFP	OA/OAJ/ OAP/OJP/ OF/OFP	AX/AXJ/ AXP/AJP/ XF/XFP	MXF/MFB/MFS/MFG/MFC/ MFP/MFPB/MFPS/MFPG/MFPC/ MXJ/MJB/MJS/MJG/MJC/ MJP/MJPB/MJPS/MJPG/MJPC/ MX/MXB/MXS/MXG/MXC/ MXP/MXPB/MXPS/MXPG/MXPC PAX	MACH/PACH/ NAC/PNAC/ TQX/TQXP
HERDING	HT/PT	NHS/ HSADSC/ HSBDSC/HSCS	HI/HIADSC/ HIBDSC/HICS	HX/HXADSC/ HxBDSC/ HXCS	HC/HCH
OBEDIENCE	BN/GN/ PCD/CD	GO/ PCDX/CDX	UD/ PUTD	UDX (OR HIGHER)/ PUDX (OR HIGHER)/ OM(1-9)/ POC	OGM/ OTCH/ NOC
RALLY	RN	RA	RE	RAE	RNC
TRACKING	TD/TDU	TDX	TDU	VST	CT
COURSING ABIL TEST	CA	CAA	CAX	CAX2 (OR HIGHER)	

For an explanation of titles and abbreviations go to AKC: <http://www.akc.org/events/titles/>.

AKC JUNIOR TITLE ACHIEVEMENT PINS

Juniors receive a gold achievement pin when they earn a title showing their dog in **Obedience, Rally or Agility**. Juniors receive a pin for the first title earned along with a title bar. The Title pin and bars will no longer be automatically mailed with Junior Recognition Certificates.

Juniors wishing to receive their achievement pin and title bars will need to contact Juniors@akc.org and request the specific title bar(s). Be sure to include the Junior's name, mailing address, and specific title bar(s) being requested in the email. You can access this information on the akc.org site by using the link below:

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/pins-and-title-bars/>

THE AWARDS PROGRAM

COMBINED OVERALL

COMBINED OVERALL JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

The USASA Junior Committee will also recognize the Overall Junior of the Year.

To qualify and be eligible for the Combined Overall Junior of the Year, the Junior must be awarded Junior Title Earner Points in **at least two** divisions of performance competition, as well as earn a minimum of 50 points from Junior Handling.

The Junior with the highest accumulated Junior Title Earner Points, and who has the highest accumulated Junior Handling points, is the winner.

In the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.



THE AWARDS PROGRAM

OPTIMUM CLUB

HANDLING

Awards will be given to Juniors who receive a minimum of 100 Junior Handling points during the Annual Year, and who also provide grade reports which reflect at least a B/3.000 average or higher for **each** grading period of the Junior year. The grade reports for the FOUR most recent Quarters **MUST** be sent in order to qualify. Juniors are responsible for mailing all grade reports (photocopies accepted) to the USASA Junior Committee Co-Chair **no later than February 15th** of the calendar year.

PERFORMANCE

Awards will be given to the Juniors who receive a minimum of 10 Junior Title Performance Points during the Annual Year, and who also provide grade reports which reflect at least a B/3.000 average or higher for **each** grading period of the Junior Year. The grade reports for the Four most recent Quarters **MUST** be sent in order to qualify. Juniors are responsible for mailing all grade reports (photocopies accepted) to the USASA Junior Committee Co-Chair **no later than February 15th** of the calendar year.

ALL Awards will be given out at the USASA Nationals during the Awards Presentations. We encourage all USASA Juniors to attend, as this is the once a-year showcase and recognition for our Juniors and their accomplishments. If you are not able to attend the Awards presentation, we ask that you please make arrangements for someone to pick up your awards during the presentation. It is the Junior's responsibility to coordinate with the USASA Junior Committee as to who will be picking up their awards. If nobody is available to pick up your awards for you, please contact the USASA Junior Committee to make arrangements to receive your Awards. Again, it is the responsibility of the Junior to make these arrangements.

All year-end Award Winners will be published in the Australian Shepherd Journal. If you have any questions on your points, please contact either the USASA Junior Committee Co-Chair or the Performance Coordinator.

USASA JUNIORS PROGRAM REWARD

AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Any junior who qualifies for the AKC National Championship Invitational in conformation or performance events has an opportunity to earn \$200 to help with his or her expenses to attend the show.

Juniors who qualify must submit a one page essay on an assigned topic to the juniors committee. The committee will read the essays and vote on the winners based on the quality of the written essay. Essay topics will change from year to year.

If a junior qualifies for both conformation and performance, he or she may only write one essay and apply to win \$200 for one event. We will award \$200 each to one individual for conformation and one individual for performance. Performance events are all inclusive (agility, fly ball, herding, obedience, rally) and cannot be applied for individually. In other words, a junior cannot win more than \$200 per year.

ESSAY TOPIC: To be announced one month prior to due date on the USASA website and/or on the USASA Juniors Facebook page.

Essays Due: **NOVEMBER 15th**

The essays will be judged on the following criteria:

- focus on the assigned topic
- proper essay format (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)
- proper use of grammar, spelling, punctuation
- clarity and precision
- preferably typed
- must include junior's name and qualifying event (conformation or performance)

Essays are to be emailed/mailed to the current USASA Junior Committee Chair whose information can be found on the USASA site at:

<http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/board-of-directors-and-committees>

USASA NATIONALS BEST JUNIOR HANDLER SCHOLARSHIP

In order to support the future education of the Junior Handlers who are participating in the Sport of Dogs, a \$500.00 Scholarship will be offered by the United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) Juniors Committee to the Best Junior handler at the 2016 National Specialty held annually at the Purina Farms Event Center, Gray Summit, Missouri.

Scholarship winners must be a current USASA Junior Member. Juniors must be a member prior to the date of Junior Showmanship competition at the National Specialty. Should the winner of the Best Junior Award not be a current USASA Junior Member, the Scholarship will not be awarded that year.

These Scholarship Certificates may be redeemed to attend an accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution.

Attendance at an accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution:

Upon appropriate notification including a copy of a document of registration and a point of contact at the post-secondary educational institution, the USASA Juniors Committee will disperse the scholarship money directly to the recipient's institution of choice OR with appropriate receipts the \$500.00 may be dispersed to the student directly for books, academic supplies and/or materials at the discretion of the USASA Juniors Committee.

Definitions and Limitations:

1. The recipient must redeem the Scholarship by age 21 or the monies will be forfeited and placed back into the USASA Juniors Committee.
2. If for any reason the Junior Handler is disqualified from their win, the Scholarship will be considered void.
3. An "accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution" is generally considered to constitute a college or university of higher education. Each institution must be approved by the USASA Juniors Committee. Other Technical or trade schools may be considered, evaluated and approved by the USASA Juniors Committee on a case-by-case basis.
4. Scholarships must be kept responsibly in a safe place and not lost. They are considered by the USASA Juniors Committee to have value to the person it is issued to (only) and it must be physically redeemed by the specific individual it is issued to in order to be used.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

AKC

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB IS PROUD TO OFFER A JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. applicant's need;
2. applicant's academic achievement; and
3. applicant's involvement in the fancy.

Each applicant is required to submit current school transcripts, as well as an essay including a description of his or her experiences and interests in purebred dogs, including an explanation of how the individual perceives his or her future role in the fancy. Application can be found at following link:

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/scholarship-recipient/>

The deadline for this Scholarship will be on the Application.

USASA FOUNDATION JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The primary goal of the program is to promote and encourage juniors to participate in the sport of American Kennel Club purebred dog events with Australian Shepherds, as well as to become active in the United States Australian Shepherd Association, and to promote a continuing interest and plans for future involvement with the Australian Shepherd breed. **The deadline for this Scholarship is January 1, of the current year.** If you go to the website and the date on the form is not updated, please fill out the form that is on the site and mail it in to the address provided on the form.

The Application for this scholarship can be found on the USASA Foundation website at the following link:

<http://www.usasfoundation.org/newsite/jrs.html>

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACTS

For general USASA Junior Committee questions/suggestions, and/or to send copies of Performance forms and general Performance questions/suggestions contact:

Ben Swanson
USASA Junior Committee Chair and Performance Coordinator
2980 Hunley Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(716) 397-2007
wbentons@umich.deu

Send grade reports for Optimum Club Eligibility, Donation/Sponsor Info, Awards questions to:

Amy Garrison
USASA Junior Committee Co-Chair
4979 N Gregory Rd
Fowlerville, MI 48836
(517) 202-1876
appledancejewels@gmail.com

Hayden Hadley
USASA Junior Committee Field Representative
7133 Steer Lane
Crowley, TX 76036
817-948-3673
hnhadley@gmail.com

Board of Directors Contact Liaison:

Kelley Catterson
15309 N Eastern Rd
Smithville, MO 64089
(816) 260-6720
kelleycatt@gmail.com

HELPFUL RESOURCES

To order the Junior Handler Certification form CEJRH1 contact:

AKC Junior Committee

(919) 233-9767

email: juniors@akc.org

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/>

USASA Website:

<http://www.australianshepherds.org/>

United States Australian Shepherd Foundation:

<http://www.usasfoundation.org/newsite/>

MB-F website for all AKC events:

<http://infodog.com/>

AKC's Website:

<http://www.akc.org/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/> (for Agility, Rally, Obedience, etc.)

<http://www.akc.org/events/titles/> (AKC Titles, Abbreviates, and their descriptions)

USASA Juniors (Facebook Page):

https://www.facebook.com/USASA-Juniors-130040467181311/timeline/?ref=br_tf

AKC Juniors (Facebook Page):

https://www.facebook.com/groups/188199447905978/?ref=br_tf

AKC Canine Good Citizen Information:

<http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/title/>

AKC Therapy Dog Information:

<http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/akc-therapy-dog-program/>

AKC Junior Achievement Pins and Title Bars:

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jr_pin_title_bars.cfm

AKC Junior Handler Access Code Request (For FREE Junior Showmanship/Performance Report):

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jrauth_request.cfm