



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Companion Events Department

Date: January 15, 2020
To: All AKC Clubs Licensed to Hold Companion Events
From: AKC Companion Events Department
Subject: **AKC Companion Events Scholarship Program**

The Companion Events Department is pleased to announce the creation of a \$10,000 scholarship fund for students that are active in AKC Companion Events who will be attending an institution of higher education during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Definition of Companion Events:

Companion Events is defined as: agility trials, obedience trials, rally trials, and tracking tests.

Definition of a Higher Education Institution:

Vocational school, two-year junior college program, four-year college program, or advanced studies beyond a four-year degree.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants must be active in AKC Companion Events.
2. Applicants must be attending or planning to attend an institution of higher education during the 2020-2021 academic year.
3. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

The Criteria for Awarding AKC Companion Events Scholarships Include:

1. Applicant's degree of involvement in AKC Companion Events. Examples – handler, club member, assistance in hosting events, community involvement in promoting Companion Events.
2. Applicant's higher education goals.
3. Applicant's financial need.
4. Applicant's GPA.
5. Extracurricular activities – school or community related.

How to Apply for an AKC Companion Events Scholarship:

1. Complete the Application form which can be found online at - <https://www.akc.org/sports/juniors/junior-handlers-in-companion-sports/>.
2. Submit a 250– 500-word essay explaining how involvement in Companion Events has impacted your life.
3. Submit an official GPA transcript from current school.
4. Documentation signed by a club officer confirming any volunteer work performed for the club(s).
5. Deadline: All information must be received no later than **March 6, 2020**.

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

A common concern across the sports is who will carry on these Companion Events that we love and are so important to demonstrate the dog's willingness to work with its handler by behaving in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs as a companion to man. The *Companion Events Scholarship Program* is meant to assist those young people that have demonstrated their interest in these sports to achieve their higher education goals and encourage them to remain engaged or return to the sports when their lifestyle permits.

A little assistance at a critical time can have a lasting impact. The following are letters AKC recently received from past scholarship recipients:

Cadet Steven Reiss - Steve participates primarily in Obedience and Rally trials. He was a Junior Scholarship recipient in 2018. His love for the sports and dogs taught him to work hard towards a life goal. He is attending SUNY Maritime College and expects to graduate in 2022.

"It is my honor to have been acknowledged by the American Kennel Club in receiving an AKC Junior scholarship to help me pursue my dream of becoming a Harbor pilot. I have been training and competing in Companion Events since the age of eight. Showing in AKC events has helped me grow and taught me respect and professionalism and what it takes to pursue a life goal. As a three-time top 10 winner in the AKC Rally National Championship, it is proof that if you work hard in what you believe, anything is possible."

"Thanks to the AKC. They have recognized my hard work I am truly grateful for all the memories and friendships I have made along the way; this has all been made possible due to growing up as an AKC junior member. The lessons I've learned has transferred over into my college success. As a sophomore, I am running for Chief of the regiment in my college, which is one of the highest levels a student could be. I am proud and thankful for all the AKC has done for me."

Kaitlyn Dreese - Kaitlyn participates in Agility trials. She was a three-time Junior Scholarship recipient in the years 2016, 2017, 2018; and a Veterinary Scholarship recipient in 2019. She is attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and expects to graduate in 2022.

"Support from the AKC Junior Program encouraged me to further my education in a way that will foster bringing canine performance events into the veterinary community. I'm happy to be in a position where I can work to bring AKC representatives to our community and provide resources to our students and staff. One of my favorite extracurricular activities has been helping my classmates with CGC, trick dog, and some agility!"

Questions or clarifications can be emailed to Juniors@akc.org.

To the future of our sports,



Carrie De Young
Director of Agility



Pamela Manaton
Director of Obedience,
Rally and Tracking



Doug Ljungren
Executive Vice President
Sports & Events