



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 12, 2024
Plum Creek Kennel Club Proudly Hosts
Colorado's 1st Annual Best of the Best Junior
Supported and Coordinated by the new non-profit
The Colorado Junior Foundation



SATURDAY, JUNE 15th, 2024

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25690 E. Quincy Ave. Aurora, CO

NOON for Preliminary Judging
5pm (approx.) Final Judging

EVENT CONTACT

Marlene Groves, Cell 303.243.0440
President Colorado Junior Foundation

AKC Delegate & Corresponding Secretary Plum Creek Kennel Club
marlene@buffalogroves.com

What's better than Kids & Dogs? Kids & Dogs and Education & Scholarships!

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

About a year ago a group of forward-thinking American Kennel Club (AKC) Dog Clubs in Colorado sat down to discuss expanding the support for the youth (Junior Dog Handlers) in our sport of purebred dogs. This group decided to work together to help with encouragement, enrichment and honoring our Colorado youth. We then agreed to develop programs with educational scholarships! This created the Colorado Junior Foundation (CJF); of which Plum Creek Kennel Club is a founding member. And a final step by Plum Creek Kennel Club - they offered to host club for the 1st Annual Best of the Best Junior!

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS:

Junior Sportsman – This is the most prestigious award where the junior had to apply and share not only their successes in the dog show and junior showmanship rings, but also express their efforts and energy given to volunteering in their community (including dog clubs, 4-H, school, etc.), plus describe their overall involvement in the sport of dogs (breeding, training, securing championships and grand championships, what club they are a member of, etc.); and of course tell us how they see themselves continuing in the sport of purebred dogs and what their educational plans are. Note: The CJF is unaware of any other state dog club group and we are unaware of any other such junior sportsman award being offered; but we hope this sets a wonderful example for others to consider following!

The recipient of this award was chosen by the CJF Board and will be announced Saturday, June 15th, about 5pm, before Best in Show; and will receive a \$1500 from the Colorado Junior Foundation.

Junior's Choice – This is a unique junior honor unlike any other in the sport of dogs, as this is where the juniors themselves vote who amongst them is their choice! This is an important step for juniors in the sport to be able to recognize another with truly remarkable skills and talent. Note: There is no other such award or program in junior showmanship or the sport of dogs!

The recipient of this award will be announced Saturday, June 15th, about 5pm, before Best in Show; and receives a \$250 scholarship from the Colorado Junior Foundation, generously donated by Everything Dog.

Best of the Best – Best Junior & Reserve Best Junior – There are two (2) preliminary junior showmanship competitions, judged by two (2) separate AKC Junior judges, Ms. Diana Wilson and Ms. Molly Gard-Waller. Each preliminary judge will select 3 finalists to move forward and compete for these two (2) awards and finals will be judged, after groups and before Best in Show, by AKC Judge Dr. Steven L Keating.

Best Junior - receives a \$1000 scholarship from the Colorado Junior Foundation, sponsored by Rex of White Way.

Reserve Best Junior – receives a \$500 scholarship from the Colorado Junior Foundation, sponsored by Dog Sport America.

“We are so proud to have Plum Creek host Colorado’s 1st Annual Best of the Best Junior”, says Club President, Barbara White. “We are looking forward to a wonderful event that honors these fine juniors”.

Colorado Junior Foundation President Marlene Groves states, “Juniors are indeed the future” and she remains committed to help them all know how truly valuable they are to the sport of purebred dogs”.

Plum Creek Kennel Club is a licensed AKC member club, welcoming purebred dog enthusiasts to join our club, attend our meetings, events; and of course, participate at our annual dog shows. This year, our 3-day shows are June 14, 15, 16; with Saturday, June 15th the largest entry of nearly 1,000 purebred dogs to compete for Best in Show. Please visit our website – www.PlumCreekKennelClub.net.

The Colorado Junior Foundation is a formal 501c3 non-profit charity. We are a collaborative group of Colorado All Breed Kennel Clubs towards educating and encouraging juniors in the sport of purebred dogs. For more information, visit www.ColoradoJuniorFoundation.org

The American Kennel Club is the largest purebred dog registry in the US, and the oversight entity for the AKC sport of purebred dogs. It also is a leading source for canine health, canine education, common sense canine legislation and so much more. Please visit their website, www.AKC.org.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP:

Since the late 1920’s when the concept of children (juniors) showing dogs began, the purpose was “to develop a special competition for children”, plus “introduce a new generation of fanciers to the sport” and “to give children the opportunity to measure their skills against those of their peers.”

Since 1934 Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) has offered Junior Showmanship (formerly called Children’s Handling); and it is considered the premiere junior event. Many of our Colorado juniors recently competed at the 2024 WKC and will be competing at our 1st Annual Best of the Best Junior on June 15th.

Juniors Are The Future, for the sport of dogs; it is rather a new phrase for many, but it’s not just a slogan. Our youth, juniors will play a significant part in the future of purebred dogs and the sport of dogs.

Please visit this link to the AKC website with much more history on Junior Showmanship.
<https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/junior-showmanship/junior-history/#:~:text=In%201951%20the%20name%20of,these%20classes%20at%20AKC%20events.>

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