

# K-LIGHT

## Scholarship Race



**“Lighting the way for  
our Youth Handlers”**



**AKC Coonhound Events & Kelley's  
K-Light have teamed up together to create an  
exciting youth race for our young handlers!**

### **AN OVERVIEW -by David McKee**

The annual race for our youth handlers just got immensely better! Thru the partnership and generosity of Mike and Judy Kelley two annual scholarships will be awarded starting this year for each age division. Senior (13-17yrs) & Junior (12 and under). A \$1,000 scholarship will be given to the overall race winner of each division. In addition, all top 15 youth in each age division will receive a \$100 scholarship from Kelley's K-Light Supply. AKC will continue to recognize top 16 youth handlers in each age division thru special awards presented at each year's Youth World Championship.

### **A Monthly Spotlight**

We will “spotlight” the top youth in each age group on a monthly basis in American Cooner Magazine, [www.akccoohounds.org](http://www.akccoohounds.org), and [www.facebook.com/akccoohounds](http://www.facebook.com/akccoohounds). Fellow youth, Madison Whetstone will be contacting each winner giving them the opportunity to share what they like about coon hunting, their dog and themselves. We will be asking clubs to send us a picture of youth winners so it can be included.

### **Schedule**

The new youth scholarship race will run May 1, 2014 thru April 30, 2015. Race points earned by youth already participating prior to May will be counted in the 2014 K-Light Scholarship Race. The first month's results will be available online starting in June and will appear in the July issue of American Cooner.

### **How Youth Points Will Be Earned**

For any youth hunt (exclusively for youth handlers) or youth casts, points will be included in the race according to our EZ Point System—which works by taking the total # of youth handled dogs divided by total # of youth casts and multiplying by 2 only if the hunt is 2 hrs. Dogs handled at youth state championships (or similar) will be included in both the youth race and the National SPORTMIX breed/state race. Remember: cast wins earned regardless of handler's age always go on the dog's record toward a title, and if the win was earned at a (WQ) – World Qualifying event the “dog” is world qualified. Youth World wins will not be tabulated in the K-Light Scholarship Race.



## **Policy Change for State Youth Championships**

Beginning June 2014 it shall be our policy to allow one dog casts at any State Youth Championship should there be a rare instance of 1 \*total youth wishing to participate. This policy does not change the requirements for youth casts at regular nite hunts as found in Chapter 10 – Youth Cast. of the *Regulations for AKC Coonhound Bench Shows, Field Trials, Nite Hunts and Water Races.*

## **Reminder to Judges, Youth Handlers & Dog Owners**

No parent of a youth handler may judge his or her child in an AKC youth cast or hunt.

No owner of a dog being youth handled may participate as a nite hunt judge in their dog's cast. Youth casts can be held during any regular nite hunt. \*Should there not be enough youth in either age group to constitute a cast of a particular age division, youths of different age divisions can be combined to form a cast. Youth casts can be offered during a SPORTMIX hunt or regular state championship but will not be offered at any AKC SPORTMIX or World Championship. Youth cast winners from SPORTMIX or regular state champion hunts are NOT eligible to hunt in final four casts.

## **Your Steps to: Get Set - Get Ready - GO!**

Youth handlers must have their youth (junior) handler number so we can record points. Don't have one? Call 919-816-3909 and ask for one or visit: [www.akccoondogs.org](http://www.akccoondogs.org) and go to "Get Started" then go to "Youth Handlers". Then enter as many AKC youth casts as you can to earn points in the new K-Light Scholarship Race.

Since we are introducing the new K-Light Scholarship Race mid-year, we planned to begin awarding scholarships next year, but Mike said, "*No, let's go ahead and do it this year as well!*"! Scholarships and top 16 awards will be presented to the top 2013 youth race winners during the 2014 AKC Youth World Championship on July 11 at the opening banquet which starts at 5PM. (see full page ad this issue).

K-Light will deposit scholarship amounts into a special account for this program. When the winner attends an accredited 2-4 year college or trade school by the age of 22, they will be eligible to receive this money to help with their continuing education.

**What an awesome opportunity to help further one's education while also getting to enjoy some coon hunting!**

*Again on behalf of the Coonhound Events Team,  
I want to say thank you to Mike and Judy for their generosity  
and shared goal of encouraging our youth to continue hunting.*

*We would like to also thank Ray and Trina Conrad of Bright Eyes Lights who  
donate lights to each of our State Youth Championships  
& our Youth World Championship.*

**We now have 2 great youth program sponsors!**

**Next step: Youth show program!! We are actively looking for someone to help us recognize our show youth as well.**



**Thank you guys for all your support!**

**-David**

