



# UKC YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM (YEP) EVENT GUIDELINES

***YEP! FOR YOUR KIDS....YEP! FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR SPORT!***

**The Basic Course Objectives:** The YEP! program parameters, effective January 1, 2009, permit a club to do a one-day YEP! event culminating with a licensed bench show and nite hunt. It is expected, however, that only those clubs with the intent of sponsoring a quality, day time educational and activities program for the youth apply for a YEP! event. One of our basic objectives is to give our kids the spotlight for the day. The long term goal is to keep our kids participating in the sport and encourage them to introduce others to our coonhunting heritage. As a way of accomplishing that, our short term goal is to provide them with a fun, educational outing where they are made to feel special and appreciated.

**Setting Your Program Date:** Standard scheduling arrangements for UKC licensed events apply. A YEP! event will not be counted against your club's current allotment of seven licensed event dates per year. The 100-mile conflict radius does apply but we will work with clubs and their neighboring clubs in any way that we can to see that event dates can get scheduled.

**Planning YEP! Activities:** It is required that interested clubs appoint a committee and/or chairperson to plan and oversee the event. A chairperson's name and contact information must be submitted to UKC at the time of event scheduling. The UKC staff will assist the committee chair in any way possible in helping to plan a successful YEP! event. A chairperson need not feel as though they are personally responsible for doing all the instructional duties during the YEP! event.

**It's Not About Pass or Fail:** A current YEP! card in the pocket of a youth hunter or show enthusiast means something because it has to be earned. If they were just handed out, there would be no pride nor sense of accomplishment. That being said, it is not our objective to formally test and potentially fail any of the youth in attendance. The key is participation and the youth in attendance should be made

aware of this at the start of the event. They must participate and pay attention.

**Course Completion:** *Each child that participates will receive a YEP card at the conclusion of the presentation. That card is good for one year from date of issue. It will allow kids to participate in other club's YEP hunts without attending the class. Please return all YEP cards not issued.*

**Helpful Hints:** *Attached you will find some additional helpful hints. Remember to be creative and put some thought and effort into what will make this program the most successful that it can be at your individual club. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact United Kennel Club for assistance.*

*Try to remain aware of the fact you are apt to have a wide age range of kids to address. Typically your program should target those kids in the 10-12 year old range. You may want to adjust your meeting discussions/activities one way or the other if you have a vast majority of kids in either the older or younger group.*

Thank you for your interest in helping to conduct a Youth Education Program course for your local club. The positives for committing to a program of this nature cannot be overstated. It is only because of the extra effort of individuals with the best interest of the sport of coon hunting and this country's youth at heart, that we are able to offer this one-of-a-kind program.

**Ready to get started?** Contact us at (269) 343-9020 or e-mail [huntingops@ukcdogs.com](mailto:huntingops@ukcdogs.com) to become a UKC-approved YEP! club.

