

YEP COURSE TOPIC SUGGESTIONS



Listed below are some ideas for topics that you may wish to cover during your YEP instruction. The idea is to go into these topics deep enough so that the kids really learn something from the program but not so deep that you lose them. Make the lesson long enough that it requires some effort but not so long that you lose their attention span. Remember, our intent is to teach our kids something about our sport. This is not just a gathering to pass out YEP cards. The kids will take more pride in their possession of a YEP card if it requires some effort.

Try to combine some classroom type discussion and some activity that goes along with your topic. Try to think of some visual aids to help the kids have a better understanding of what you are discussing. For your activities, break the kids out into groups for some activities. Have older kids help the younger kids with some activities.

The ideas below are just to get you started. Take the ball and run with it! You should be able to build a meaningful program around any one of the ideas below. Choose and stick to that theme. Alternate between some of these for upcoming years. The idea is to teach kids something about the sport. Use your imagination and put some effort into coming up with a program that the kids will enjoy and learn from. If you feel your YEP program turns out really well, please share your ideas and suggestions with neighboring clubs and UKC.

Registration Basics

Discussion: Talk about the differences between grade dogs and registered dogs. Discuss the wide variety of forms in use by United Kennel Club that they may someday need including single registration forms, duplicate apps, affidavits, litter apps, etc. This is a good refresher course for parents as well!

Visual Aid: Samples of different registration forms (available from UKC)

Activity: Have the kids complete a three-generation pedigree of themselves.

Have each kid buy and sell a dog using sample registration certificates.

Nite Hunt Rules and Handling Basics

Discussion: Talk about the differences between pleasure hunting and competition hunting. Talk about the history of the Nite Hunts. Spend a good deal of time on the sportsmanship issues of the Nite Hunt. Discuss the Hunt Test Program as well.

Visual Aid: Nite Hunt terminology poster.

Guest Speaker: Bring in a successful Nite Hunt handler from the area.

Activity: Give each kid a scorecard and walk through a mock cast

Activity: Break into groups and see which group can come up with the most examples of good sportsmanship on a cast.

Bench Show Rules and Handling Rules

Discussion: Discuss conformation basics, breed standards, disqualifying faults, different classes, handling techniques and getting a dog ready to show. Again, spend time on sportsmanship.

Visual Aid: Dog anatomy and proper gait poster(s).

Guest Speaker: A successful Bench Show participant from the area.

Activity: Break into groups and prep a dog to show by giving it a bath, etc.

Activity: Do a “teaching your dog to lead” training session for the kids.

Dog Health and Care Basics

Discussion: Discuss the many areas of dog care including feeding, a worming program, shots that are necessary. Discuss heart worm programs, emergency field care for dogs in regards to heat stroke, cuts, etc.

Visual Aid: Request speaker to bring visual that compliments topic.

Guest Speaker: Local vet or vet assistant. Local field representative.

Activity: Break into groups and treat mock wounds on a good, natured dog.

Sportsmanship, Hunt Ethics, Gun Safety

Discussion: Discuss the wide variety of topics that we hunters are responsible for including safety, the resource, the laws and good sportsmanship.

Visual Aid: Many visual ads of this type are available from NRA and IHEA (International Hunter Education Assn.)

Guest Speaker: Conservation Officer, Hunter Ed Instructor

Activity: Break into groups to see which group can list the most examples of good sportsmanship in regards to hunting in general.

Activity: Adult supervised target shoot.