

NCA STEWARDS OF CHILDREN® POLICY

The NCA strongly believes that it is the responsibility of all NCA members to protect children from abuse and harassment. The NCA is following the recommendation of the American Kennel Club® to utilize the training provided on the *Darkness to Light*® website. The training *Stewards of Children*® must be completed every three years.

The following NCA members will be required to complete the training, update the training every three (3) years if still in the position listed and provide the certificate of completion to who is listed:

- Board of Directors – all members – certificate of completion held by the NCA Recording Secretary.
- Specialty Show Committee Chair - certificate of completion held by the NCA Committee Liaison
- NCA National Specialty Show Chair – certificate of completion is submitted to the Specialty Show Chair with the application to hold a NCA National Specialty.
- NCA Regional Show Chairs - certificate of completion is submitted to the Specialty Show Chair with the application to hold a NCA Regional Specialty.
- Junior Committee Chair - certificate of completion held by the NCA Committee Liaison
- Juniors Committee – all members - certificate of completion held by the Junior Committee Chair.
- Working Dog Committee Chair - certificate of completion held by the NCA Committee Liaison
- **One committee member from all NCA working event (Chair, Secretary or third committee member)** - certificate of completion and submitted with the working event application. The certificate of completion is held by the Working Dog Committee Chair.

Each person required to receive certificates of completion will be responsible to ensure that certificates are current and are uploaded into Cloud storage per instructions from TRAC.

It is highly recommended by the NCA that all NCA members that are not listed above, that are involved with children, complete the training to protect all children.

Members who elect to do the training but are not assigned to any of the above positions will not be eligible for reimbursement

Once appointed to a NCA committee position requiring training, the member has three (3) months to complete the training and submit the certificate of completion and must update the training every three (3) years if still in that position.

Financial Requirement

Each member required to complete the *Stewards of Children*® will pay for their training but may request reimbursement from the NCA.

Committees are required to include the training fees in their annual committee budgets.

Here is the AKC Policy on this:

Effective immediately:

- AKC Board of Directors, Inspectors, Field Staff across all sports, AKC Registered Handlers, and additional AKC Staff that regularly attend events, will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children*® training from the non-profit organization Darkness to Light once every three years.
- All current and future Junior Showmanship judges will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children*® training. The initial course will be offered by AKC on a complimentary basis and must be refreshed every three (3) years. All current Junior Showmanship judges must fulfill this requirement in 2024.
- All current and future Club Junior Coordinators will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children*® training. The initial course will be offered by AKC on a complimentary basis and must be refreshed every three (3) years.
- Junior participants and their parents will be recommended to take the following complementary courses as applicable from SafeSport:
 - SafeSport® for Youth Athletes (ages 13-17)
 - SafeSport® for Kids (5-12)
 - SafeSport® Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sports Core.
- All Superintendents, AKC approved Show Secretaries, and AKC approved Agility Trial Secretaries will be strongly advised to take the *Stewards of Children*® course.
- All current and future Judges across all sports are required to complete the *Stewards of Children*® training. The initial training will be provided on a complimentary basis by AKC; this requirement will be phased in