



American Racing Pigeon Union *Pigeon Tracks*

AU Youth Essay Contest

By AU Youth Ambassador, Thomas Strand

For many years the AU has been hosting the Youth Essay Contest where a key topic is set for AU youths to write a short story about and in 2015 no one even entered the Essay so **THERE WAS NO WINNER!!**

Every year all the entries are looked over by officials and the best entry wins a brand new racing clock donated by Ed Minvielle, head of Siegel's, but last year there simply were no entries to be judged. Which is really sad because now Ed Minvielle will have to wait for this years winner and give the clock to them. That is, if there "will" be any entries for this year.

What I don't understand is what happened to all the kids that didn't become winners of this contest. I get that some kids became too old to participate, but there must be some kids out there still. Anyone still interested in winning this \$1000's worth of pigeon racing machine should seriously consider entering in the Youth Essay Contest.

The Essay itself isn't all that

hard to complete. All that it entails is giving an explanation and an example of the key topic. There is no minimum length for the Essay, but the AU junior member does have to provide enough explanation to make the point of their essay very clear. Past that all that the essay has to be is the original work of the AU junior member.

So take it from a kid that has won the Youth Essay Contest. It is fun and the results can be mind blowing when the mail delivers that great big box to your door. Ed Minvielle goes all the way in sending the best to the AU kids and it is wonderful to fly with your own clock. I wish you all the best luck!!

AU Youth Ambassador
Thomas Strand

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Spring 2016

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A Salute to AU Junior Members!

Karen Clifton, Executive Director



The American Racing Pigeon Union is proud of all junior members. We want each and every one of you to have a positive experience in the hobby. We hope that you will learn great lessons that will serve you well in future years, make lifelong-lasting friendships, and have fun!

We continue to look for ways to offer junior members more opportunities just for junior members. We have this newsletter, *Pigeon Tracks*, which we hope you enjoy. We have had amazing Youth Ambassadors that share articles in this newsletter that feature our junior members.

Each year, the AU also has a Youth Essay Contest where junior members have the chance to submit an essay and win an awesome timing system donated by Ed Minvielle and Siegel's Pigeon Supply, as representatives of Benzing.

Don't forget about the AU National Youth Race held each year during our annual convention. The grand prize for this is to attend the following convention as our guest.

This year, we were thrilled to announce that the Midwest Racing Pigeon Association is hosting a youth race as well, which shows more clubs and combines want to nurture our junior members.

As junior AU members, you are the future of the sport. Many of you will likely serve as club secretary, treasurer, president, vice president or possibly all of those positions at some point. Some of you will even become an AU Board Member serving at the national level.

We appreciate all of our junior members!

We hope you have a great old bird season and that you enjoy your summer break.



Saturday, December 10, 2016

Thank you Mark Rozwadowski for handling the 2016 Youth Race!

The Youth Race will be flown from Vicksburg, Arizona – approximately 204 miles.

Thank you Leach Grain & Milling for sponsoring the race!

WHO IS READY TO RACE?

Karen Clifton, AU Executive Director



We are proud to present the AU junior members that have submitted applications to enter the 2016 AU Youth Race. Each year during our annual convention, a race just for AU junior members is held. It is always a fun and exciting race.

This year is no different. The Youth Race handler, Mark Rozwadowski, is already receiving birds. We offer our appreciation to Mark!

Once training starts a bit later in the year, we will send updates. Be sure to watch their website as well (<http://www.2016auconvention.com/youth-race.html>).

Good luck to all entrants!

Ruben Aguilar
Bryan Alvarez
Gwen Berglund
Hanna Carns
Ryan Carns
Tanner Chambers
Enastele Colwell
Deztany Cruz
Kathryn Dabney
Ryan Dabney
David Dow
Paxton Erickson
Chase Fidler
Janaya Foster Cruz
Adam Garcia
Jacquelyn Garcia
Max Gardner
Grayson Garfield
Hayden Garfield
McCabe Garfield
David Grzeda
Gage Gullickson
Grady Gullickson
Rick Heslinga
Aliyah Hindi
Destiny Hindi

Iliana Hindi
Daniel Holleman
Brynn Horton
Grayson Horton
Aiden Jenkins
Avery Jenkins
Devin Jenkins
Breann Kiecker
Cheyenne Kiecker
Karlee King
Simeon Leavitt
Jonathan Lenning
Olivia Lenning
Samantha Long
Jacob McCool
Maggie McCracken
Alexander Mercado
Leandro Mercado
Nicholas Mercado
Steven Mercado
Madison Michael
Brooklynne Michael
Tanner Michael
Christian Michael
Migles Montano
Benjamin Mora

Cooper Nuthals
Roman Oliveros
Ryndon Olsen
Logan Parnut
Marilyn Perez
Bree Perry
Broc Perry
Abigel Redekop
Myles Romero
Julianna Salinovici
Luke Salinovici
Sean Salinovici
Jackson Sandlin
Braxton Scott
Ruger Scott
Misa Smetana
Danielle Smith
Madison Smith
Ryker Smith
Thomas Strand
Kelvin Yoannys
Yerlian Yoannys
Nathan Velasco
David Walsh

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Deadline June 1, 2016!

Complete ALL questions & return with bio & a current photograph postmarked no later than 6/1/16

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

COLLEGE ATTENDING IN THE FALL: _____

COLLEGE LEVEL: FRESHMAN__ SOPH__ JUNIOR__ SENIOR__ GRADUATE__

FIELD OF STUDY: _____

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE GPA (as of the completion of the last semester – provide proof)

HOBBIES/CLUBS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS _____

HONORS RECEIVED (not required - include copies of certificates, etc.): _____

DESCRIBE FINANCIAL NEED: _____

ARE YOU AN AU MEMBER OR RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER? INCLUDE AU ID NUMBER
_____. IF RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER, EXPLAIN: _____

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH A BRIEF BIO/ESSAY WHICH IN-
CLUDES:

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

PROFESSIONAL GOALS

WORK EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY SERVICE INVOLVEMENT – HOW DO YOU GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

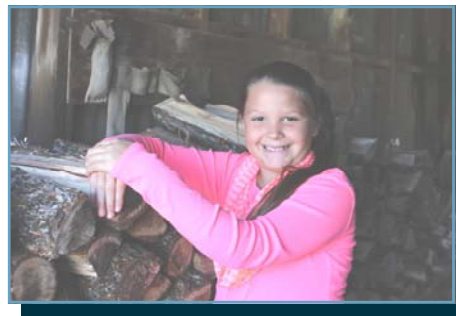
MUST HAVE A MINIMUM B AVERAGE & BE 23 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER

Applicant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Keys To Good Pigeon Health

Kalyn & Kylee Reed



Keys to Good Pigeon Health!

- 1) Don't over medicate your birds.
- 2) Clean, clean and clean some more. You must keep your loft clean.
- 3) Pigeons need fresh air and plenty of it.
- 4) Let you pigeons take a bath at least once a week.
- 5) Feed only the best grains you can buy.
- 6) Change your grit daily to ensure it stays dry and fresh.
- 7) Water is very important! Make sure you give your pigeons fresh water at least once daily. Also, make sure you keep their drinkers clean.
- 8) Sunlight- Pigeons love the sun and they need it so let them hang out in your aviary.
- 9) Don't have too many pigeons in one area. Stress brings on sickness.
- 10) Vitamins, Garlic and Minerals also help keep your pigeons heathy.

We hope sharing what we've learned helps you and the health of your pigeons.

Good Luck
Two Twisted Sisters
Kalyn & Kylee Reed

2016 Youth Membership Contest

ESSAY CONTEST

What is your health care regimen for your pigeons? In other words, what do you do to create a healthy environment for your birds? This would include medication, vaccination, quarantine of birds and loft management such as ventilation, flooring, litter control, and space so birds are not crowded. Those are examples of items that fall under the health care regimen for your pigeons, plus you can probably think of more. We would like to know what it is that you do to maintain good health in your pigeons: what you do, and why.

THE RULES

Write an essay about the topic above. There is no minimum length of essay to write, but you do need to provide enough explanation to make the point of your essay very clear. Essays must be the original work of the AU junior member. Following instructions and having the entry in by the deadline will improve your chances of winning.* Membership must be current to be eligible. (*Past AU Youth Membership Contest winners are not eligible to win.)

THE PRIZE

For the fourteenth year, the amazing prize of a Benzing electronic timing system has been donated by Ed Minvielle and Siegel's Pigeon Supply, as representatives of Benzing. Ed & Siegel's want to see youth participation in the sport grow. The AU appreciates their generosity.

THE DEADLINE

The entries must be postmarked by November 1, 2016. The winner will be selected prior to, and announced during, the 2016 annual convention held in Ontario, California. The AU "Youth Membership Contest" is open to all AU junior members.* (*Past AU Youth Membership Contest winners are not eligible to win.)

Please provide the following:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ CLUB (if applicable): _____

I hereby submit my entry in the 2016 AU Youth Membership Contest. I have read and understand the rules and certify that I have written the essay myself.

(Signature—Junior Member)

(Signature—Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

Return this entry form with your essay to the AU national office.

It must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2016.

Mail to: American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc., P.O. Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Old Bird Flying

By Steve Lawler

TEAM COMPOSITION

The make-up of the Old Bird team should reflect a solid veteran group of birds 2-5 years old. Oftentimes fanciers stop flying quality old birds too early. These veterans should be about half sprinters and half distance birds. A fancier really needs to have at least two families, maybe more, to cover all the bases during the season. Besides birds for the sprints, there are easy and tough middle distance races and easy and tough 500/600's. It takes different kinds of birds to be on top in each type of race because of conditions encountered.

Approximately half of the 40-60 OBs (depending on bird quality, course, conditions and flyer experience/capabilities) should be yearlings. These birds are the lifeblood of the team. They will carry your "colors" over the next 2-3 years.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The composition of the Old Bird team will determine the type and amount of training needed. Late hatches and/or lightly raced young birds plus the bona fide yearlings need additional training compared to the old veterans.

Don't be afraid to start earlier training with the inexperienced (or less experienced) members of the team. Many late hatches have been trained in 10-15 degree weather over Christmas vacation. The great Otto Meyer has related stories of Signal Corp pigeons being trained in the Arctic at 40 degrees below zero!

Retrospectively, late hatches really should go out at least 40 miles in the Fall to "set" that homing instinct early in their lives. These more inexperienced birds can be trained at 5 mile intervals like young birds come Spring time.

Starting early (end of February for mid-April start) allows weekend training on good days only.

Avoid starting late and feeling forced to go down the road "no matter what." As the distance increases out to 20 miles or so the old veterans can be added to the training. They should of course have been outside exercising at least 2-4 weeks before they begin road work. Same goes for the yearlings before they start down the road.

Get the old birds out to 50-60 miles before the first race with plenty of exercise (free loft, if possible, in each respective locale). The more time in the Spring sunshine, the better the early performances. The yearlings need to be worked more strenuously, very much like the young bird training (out to 100 miles). Get them out on plenty of short tosses, too.

A wise, patient flyer is only going to go 300, possibly 400 miles with these youngsters their first year on the OB team. Invest the time and effort to get them ready and confident to perform a realistically selected series of races.

With such a variety of conditions, weather patterns, hawk migrations, race season starting dates, etc., each flyer needs to adjust dates according to his own unique situation.

