

# American Racing Pigeon Union

# Pigeon Tracks

2022 AU National Youth Race Winner  
Brooklynne Michael



Brooklynne takes top spot in the 2022 IHC Convention Youth Race. Here, she holds the winner, AU 22 Heavens Highway 300, dark check hen.

The Michaels are a racing family in Iowa. It looks like they've got some winning ways.

Brooklynne's bird was hosted by youth race handler, Steve Zurcher.

The winner's trophy is on it's way to Brooklynne, along with a plaque showing her fine accomplishment. Congratulations!

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American Racing Pigeon Union  
PO Box 18465  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154  
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1-405-848-5801, telephone  
1-405-848-5888, fax  
[www.pigeon.org](http://www.pigeon.org)



# A Recap of Recent Racing Activity

Joseph LaQuiere, AU Youth Ambassador

A brief update on how things are going in the youth pigeon racing world. The Flying Clovers Racing Pigeon Club had another successful youth One Loft race with youth from across the nation entering birds. The race took place in late September with a 150-mile race from Rockford, MI, to Petoskey, MI.

Families gathered at the race handler's (Mike Netzky) for a BBQ and to watch the birds return. The AU convention in October was another chance for our youth flyers to share and promote the sport. Emme Plackemeier did not disappoint with a presentation at the AU Gala on the convention's final day, sharing her story and experience with pigeons. Emme's presentation was well received by all in attendance and even received recognition from Michigan 4-H.

Mike Netzky has also assisted a new startup club in New York State, promising new youth mem-

bers to learn and enjoy the sport.

Finally, youth and adults alike are preparing for the breeding season, some having already started. Soon lofts will be bustling with activity. Thousands of baby pigeons will hatch, and you know what each one needs to race? Yes, this is your reminder to order those AU bands ASAP. Bands will be shipping by mid-December, so waste no time getting your order in! If you have questions about breeding, banding, or anything pigeon related, I encourage you to contact the AU, who will be happy to answer any questions they can.

I hope you and your families are all doing well, and I wish you all a very successful race year!

Joseph LaQuiere  
AU Youth Ambassador  
[Sales@laquilofts.com](mailto:Sales@laquilofts.com)

**Emme's presentation at the 2022 convention banquet.**



## ***Out and About with Junior Members***

Steve Zurcher (2022 Youth Race handler) examines the birds with Joseph LaQuiere (race entrant). Steve explained his care and training of birds such as Joseph's during the convention preparation.



ting with junior owners who attended the convention. Steve shared with bird viewers that he is a huge fan of other bird breeds as well, such as waterfowl.

AU Southeast Zone Director, Ronnie Shumaker had questions of his own for the handler. While there, he picked up some shirts for juniors in his area.



Below, Chesney Ward (Indiana) took third in the Flying Clovers One Loft Race. Congratulations!



The Flying Clovers hosted a one-loft race open to all AU juniors for three years.



Youth Race entrants we're each provided a t-shirt commemorating the race. How cool is that!

Steve was good enough to spend time chat-

Moving on to more Ohio convention action, the banquet highlighted some fun information from the Flying Clovers. Head Clover, Mike Netzky, watched over his members proudly as





The Flying Clovers RPC was also recognized for their outreach via any potential publicity opportunity such as



along with Mike Netzky. You might spot 2020 youth race winner, Brooks Plackemeier, back row, left. There's more fun and learning ahead for the whole family as they strive to excel.

Congratulations to the family and all the Clovers for superb accomplishments.

events, newspaper, radio and television.

To do what has been done by Mike and the Clovers, Mike became a 4-H leader volunteer. Imagine the devotion and focus required to make the best learning experience for youth in your influence. Kudos to Mike and kudos to the club members for making all this possible and taking initiative for their kids. Bravo!

In these photos, (left to right) Emme Plackemeier is presenting her PowerPoint slide show at the annual convention banquet. In the next photo, Mike Netzky is receive the promotion award for his and Clovers' outstanding public awareness activities. The bottom photo shows Emme support system, her parents and siblings,





## *26th Annual All National Youth Race*

The objective of the National Youth Race is to promote greater involvement of AU Junior members in our hobby by allowing them the camaraderie and friendly competition of participation in a prestigious national youth event.

The National Youth Race will be coordinated by the Gulf Coast Homing Pigeon Association. The race will be held November 2, 2023. The handler, Bim Crowder, is excited to train your birds.

Additional details:

The race is open to all current junior members of the American Racing Pigeon Union.

By their entry into the race, junior members are asserting that any bird entered has been raised and cared for by themselves.

There is no entry fee, however, entrants must be current AU members. Participants will be recognized in our quarterly publication, AU Update. The overall winner will receive a trophy and plaque.

Entry forms should be returned to the AU national office by no later than March 1, 2023, to insure perch space. One bird per participant.

Youngsters should be shipped between March 1 and May 31, 2023. Please ship birds from Sunday to Thursday, so to be received between Monday and Friday.

**\*\*\*REMEMBER TO MARK THE SHIPPING CONTAINER: NATIONAL YOUTH RACE!\*\*\***

We hope you will join us at the convention and watch the birds return on race day. Please call the AU at 405-848-5801 with any questions.

(We will keep you posted with monthly updates after training begins.)

**SHIP TO:**

Bim Crowder  
13815 Holland Road  
Dickinson, TX 77539  
409-739-0054 (Please call prior to shipping!)



We hope you will join in the fun. The 2023 AU National Youth Race will be handled by Bim Crowder. The race is open to all AU junior members. The race will be flown on November 2, 2023. All participants will receive a certificate or plaque. The overall winner will also receive a trophy.

**Applications should be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the office by no later than March 1, 2023. As soon as applications are received, we will send notification advising of shipping details. Applications must be received prior to shipment for entry into the race and juniors must be AU members. Birds may be shipped from March 1 through May 31, 2023.**

### APPLICATION FORM

The AU "2023 National Youth Race" is open to all AU junior members. The race will be hosted by the Gulf Coast Homing Pigeon Association. Please print the following:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby indicate that I wish to participate in the 2023 AU National Youth Race. I certify that any 2023 young bird I may enter in this youth race has been raised and cared for by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be unable to attend, but am excited to enter a bird.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have my bird returned after the race. (Cost of shipping is paid by breeder and to be coordinated through handler.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature – Junior Member) (Signature – Parent/Guardian)

Return this application form to the AU national office. It must be mailed to arrive by March 1, 2023  
Mail to: American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. P.O. Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154

# AU Youth Scholarships Awarded in 2022



**BRADEN BOLTON**

Braden is the son of AU member, Kyle Bolton, in Pennsylvania. His field of study is Environmental Science. Honors include National Merit Finalist, cross-country, track and field, Youk County Honoros Band, and much more. He believes strongly in giving back to his community. It is an honor to have him as a scholarship recipient.

**KARAH PUTNAM**

Karah is studying chemistry and a certificate in Public Health. As an honor student, her sights are set on a career as a physician in out-patient care. Along that line, she has volunteered for and organized blood drives. She has worked with sport departments at the local park, and concessions at football games; plus she volunteers in child services through a local church. Her skills will be vital as she progresses. Well done Karah!



**SOPHIA ALLEN**

Multitasking with cheerleading, National Honor Society and Salvation Army service, Sophia has already checked off President's Honor Roll and Deans List and is on to fast-tracking high school diplomas and Associate Degree for entering Dental Hygiene School. Sarah is our 3rd scholarship recipient. Congratulations Sophia!



## **AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The AU Youth Scholarship Program has been established to further the good work of the National Ladies' Auxiliary.

AU members and their relatives are eligible to apply for a scholarship. Criteria is listed below:

- Must be 23 years old or younger
- Must have a minimum B average
- Must be an AU member or relative of an AU member
- Must submit a **signed application, bio, proof of GPA & photo by no later than June 1**
- Bio will include educational & professional goals, work experience & community service involvement. Tell us how you work within the community (service programs, clubs, scouting, church, etc.) Be sure to include any certificates of acknowledgement or achievement and letters of recommendation. Supporting letters from educators are important.

Applications **must be postmarked no later than June 1 each year**. Applications and bios will be reviewed by the AU Youth Scholarship Committee. The top three essays (with the above information) will be selected. Each scholarship recipient will receive \$2,000.00 to assist toward fulfilling their educational goals.

Award recipients will be notified. Upon receipt of proof of enrollment for the Fall semester, a check will be issued.

Scholarship winners will be announced each year at the annual AU Convention.

### ***MAIL APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS TO:***

**ARPU  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
PO BOX 18465  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154-0465**



AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION  
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



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

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 INCLUDES:

- 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

***Candidates previously awarded a scholarship are not eligible.***