AMERICAN SHETLAND SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION Junior Sponsorship Application (2026)

The American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA) encourages young people's interest, involvement and love of our breed. This encouragement includes supporting juniors who exhibit Shetland Sheepdogs at dog shows.

We are pleased to offer up to twelve (12) $500 sponsorships, on a first come, firstserved basis, to juniors who qualify to compete at the following events:

Westminster Kennel Club – February 2026

- Junior Showmanship
- Master' Obedience Championship
- Master's Agility Championship

AKC National Agility Championship – March 2026

Junior Open Agility World Championship- July 2026

AKC/Royal Canin – December 2026

- Junior Showmanship
- Juniors Agility
- Juniors Classic Obedience and Rally

These sponsorships are paid for through funds generously donated to the ASSA and specifically set asidefor this purpose.

Up to four (4) sponsorships will be awarded per venue (i.e. 4 for Agility, 4 for Obedience or Rally, and 4 for Junior Showmanship). A Junior may only apply for one (1) sponsorship in one venue each year.

Sponsorship awards are issued directly to the applicant.

Please submit the following items to the Sponsorship Coordinator:

 A letter, signed and dated by the junior, requesting consideration for a sponsorship. The letter must include:

- Junior name, age, AKC junior number and the show and the venue for which s/he is seeking sponsorship
- A statement by the junior that he/she has shown a Shetland Sheepdog to **all** her/his qualifying wins.
- An agreement to show a Shetland Sheepdog at the competition for which the sponsorship is awarded.
- An agreement that should s/he be unable to compete at the show, or the event is canceled,the money awarded will be returned in full within ten (10) days following the show date.
- Junior & parent contact information- mailing address, phone number and email

☐ Evidence of qualification for the chosen show (a copy of the invitation or notice of qualification).

☐ One (1) letter of endorsement from an ASSA member club **or** two (2) letters of recommendation from ASSA members in good standing. Note that letters of recommendation cannot come from a parent or guardian. The two (2) letters may not come from the same household. If you happen to qualify multiple years in a row, the letters must come from different sponsors. The letter shall attest to the junior's active participation and interest in the sport of dogs with their Sheltie(s).

Submission deadlines are as follows, materials are expected to be submitted at one time, by end of business day (no later than 5pm):

For Westminster - no later than January 1st
For AKC Agility Championship – no later than February 1st
For Junior Open Agility World Championship- no later than June 1st
For AKC/Royal Canin - no later than November 1st

Please submit sponsorship requests to sponsorship coordinator Marni Sharoff electronically at **mcsharo@gmail.com** (please put "Junior Showmanship Sponsorship" as subject matter).

Or you may submit hard copy upon request, please email mcsharo@gmail.com for more information

****Incomplete packets will not be accepted or reviewed. Please submit all materials at one time****

Selection: Sponsorship recipients will be selected by the Junior Showmanship Committee. The committee's decision will be based on the junior's request letter, qualifying verification from WKC or the AKC, their letter(s) of recommendation. ******Please Note, The President of ASSA or any member of the Junior Showmanship Committee may NOT provide a recommendation letter or act as a reference for sponsorships.******

Funding decisions will be made, and applicants notified of that decision as soon as possible, Applicants are encouraged to apply for sponsorship as soon as possible after receiving their invitation or notice of qualification.

Sponsorship winners are **expected** to submit a short written or video report of their experience to the sponsorship coordinator Marni Sharoff **no later 90 days after competing in the show.** The report should discuss the benefit funds had on the experience, how that competition differs from attending other shows/competitions, and any guidance or suggestions they a pass on to future competitors for the event attended. **Failure to submit the report could have a detrimental effect on future applications for any sponsorship, scholarship or grant program offered by ASSA.**

Check List for Submission Materials

****Incomplete packets will not be accepted or reviewed. Please submit all materials at one time****

Does the letter of consideration state:

- Junior name
- Age
- AKC Junior number
- The show and the venue for which s/he is seekingsponsorship
- A statement by the junior that he/she has shown a Shetland Sheepdog to **all** her/his qualifying wins
- An agreement to show a Shetland Sheepdog at the competition for which the sponsorship isawarded
- An agreement that should s/he be unable to compete at the show, or the event is canceled,the money awarded will be returned in full within ten (10) days following the show date
- Junior & parent contact information- mailing address, phone number and email

Is there evidence of qualification to the chosen show?

- Copy of the invitation or notice of qualification

Are the letters of endorsement from:

- One (1) letter of endorsement from an ASSA member club

or

- two (2) letters of recommendation fromA SSA members in good standing.
- Does the letter attest to the junior's active participation and interest in the sport of dogs with their Sheltie(s).

Are all the materials being sent together?

Note:

- Letters of recommendation cannot come from a parent or guardian
- The two (2) letters may not come from the same household.
- If you happen to win multiple years in a row, the letters must come from different sponsors.