

Examples of Junior Mushing Clubs

Mat Su 4-H

Junior ASDRA

Junior Mushers of the Interior

Math + Science+ Love = Mushing

UAF CO-OP & DNR 4H ideas



www.alaska4hdogmushingprogram.com

The Little Su 4-H club was started in Wasilla and in Talkeetna, Alaska in October 2002.

We have nine 4-H members:

- Jonathan Biggerstaff/Myers (age 10, running dogs for 6 years)
- Yuta Takagi (age 13, running dogs for 2 years)
- Seiji Takagi (age 10, running dogs for 2 years)
- Annelissa Eckmann (age 14, running dog for 7 months)
- Karl Eckmann (age 10, running dogs for 9 months)
- Miranda Stitt (age 13, running dogs for 3 years)
- Skeeter Stitt (age 10, running dogs for 3 years)
- Skipper Stitt (age 12, running dogs for 3 years)
- Ruthann Stitt (age 8, running dog for 3 years)

We all have been training and sprint racing this last winter season.

All the teams have done a very good job this year. We had one team that Won the Jr. Eagle River Classic in Chugiak, Jr. World Championship in Anchorage and came in second in the Jr. North American in Fairbanks.

The 4-H program is a practical, learn- by-doing educational

Program for youth 8 to 19. It is run through the University of Fairbanks and the Mat-Su Copper River District Cooperative Extension Service in Palmer, Alaska.

We have three levels of curriculum: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced

Beginners

Some of the curriculum topics are:

- SAFETY
- Basic mushing skills (how to harness, the positions on the team, how to hook up a dog, name of lines)
- All the equipment
- Start learning about different dog foods (high-octane dry foods and non competitive dry foods), from dry food to meats; learn to bait water and why
- Very basic animal care (administering food and medications, foot care, skin care, dental care, basic exam) including knowledge

of some parasites

- Dog breeds
- Basic winter camping
- Very basic record keeping
- The history of mushing

Members are required to be handlers and kennel help for the Intermediate, Advanced and the adult teams for the summer, fall, winter training, and race season.

The members are advanced enough to use the skills they have learned to train and race their teams. Everyone learns the Golden Rule: Always take care of your dogs before you take care of yourself.

Intermediate

- More in-depth nutrition, including the kind of fats, meats, different supplements (like Psyllium, Vitamin E, Astaxanthin, Zinc, Grape Seed Extract and Probiotics are just a few)
- Learning to read commercial dog food labels
- Study different feeding ideas (for all racing and working dog teams)
- Making lines
- Fixing broken sleds and making new sleds
- Making dog boxes

Members also train for different conditions (sprint, mid-distance, long distance racing); learn how to work a real work team (haul water, logs and supplies). We have to be certified in human CPR and First Aid, and we have classes in canine CPR and First Aid, cold weather and health care, intermediate record keeping, canine anatomy, diseases, beginners medical terminology.

Advanced

- Advanced record keeping (computer record keeping)
- Teaching other students
- Laboratory Procedures (fecals, CBC's, chemistry panels, urinalysis)
- Canine diseases
- How to talk to your veterinarian
- Advanced medical terminology
- Very basic anesthesia (so the student understands what their canine is going through under anesthesia, different kinds of anesthesia, local, injectable and inhalation anesthetics)
- Basic understanding of X-Rays and Ultrasounds
- Basic surgery (Ovariohysterectomy, Neutering, Emergence surgery, and Cesarean section)
- How to care for post-surgery canine patient
- Preventative health care

- Canine Disorders (bone, muscle, joint, skin, nervous and circulatory systems), and different treatment that can be used (acupressure, massage, acupuncture, food, drugs, herbs, and surgery treatments) are just a few things the students learn.

In all the levels we also learn about and practice leadership, responsibility speaking in public, writing, and money management. Everything we learn is all hands on. We put on demonstrations at schools and the State Fair. We also do presentations on subjects like roundworms (we use real worms for the presentations). We have field trips. We have an upcoming field trip scheduled for visiting CAC Plastics to see how sled runners are made, what kind of plastics are used, what is the best and why.

This year we have patches that we earn showing what we have completed. They are like the ones used in equine programs in 4-H. The club members also do other projects like scuba diving; swine, rabbit, and poultry care; sewing (lots of booties, make and repair harnesses), cooking, gardening and much more.

Our future goals: we are working on having a Jr. Sled Dog Symposium for beginners to advanced classes, Jr. Sled Dog Camp (beginners and advance); and a scholarship to any educational credited institute
Thank you for your wonderful support and donations to the Little Su 4-H Club:

- Cruz Construction
- Alaska Sausage and Seafood
- Play 'N' Saw
- Nordic Constructors
- CAC Plastics.

Thank you Martin Buser and Jeff King for the wonderful educational field trip and Rex Jones for your equipment and dogs.

JR. ASDRA asdra@asdra.org

PRE-SEASON PROCEDURES

- 1. Ribbon inventory**
- 2. Print out Season Race & Meeting Schedule to email and hand out.**
- 3. Go over list of sponsors.**
- 4. Go over topics and speakers and assign to meeting schedule.**
- 5. Check all forms for: adequate quantity for the season and accuracy.
Update if needed.**
- 6. Review budget with senior club treasurer.**
- 7. Review and update junior musher contact list.**
- 8. In November officers are voted on, the distances that each class
will run
is decided and any changes to race rules must be voted on.**

JUNIOR ASDRA PROGRAM

Officers- and their duties:

Jr. Advisor:

Organize the junior ASDRA program, including meetings, races, awards and volunteers. Assist Junior Board in getting race sponsors. Coordinate events and the schedule with the Senior ASDRA Board to avoid conflicts and maximize help and participation.

President:

Lead the junior meetings after coordinating the agenda with the Junior advisor appointed by the Senior ASDRA Board. Help in the organization of the races; specifically recruiting the timers, bib person, and trail guards. Appoint parent committee to arrange banquet location and costs and trophy ordering. Conduct the weekly drawing.

Work with the other Junior Board members on the banquet agenda. Create the sportsmanship ballots for the award banquet. Junior mushers vote when they turn in their bib on the last day of racing. Junior officers and advisor count the votes. Ties are broken by runoff ballot at the banquet of the class with a tie. At the banquet the president introduces the Junior Board and assists in award presentations as determined in the agenda (Jr. Officers or guest speakers announce awards) junior board members hand out the trophies.

Vice President:

Assist in the junior meetings. Mark all the ribbons for each race and hand them out at the meeting. Take over meetings when president not available. Maintain a record of season points for point trophies. Vice President or Secretary can create and copy the program for the awards banquet. Conduct weekly race draw in conjunction with the junior president. Makes sure the trophies and ribbons are ordered, working with treasurer.

Treasurer:

Keep track of fees taken in for memberships, race fees, MOA fees and Championship fees and turn them into the ASDRA Treasurer. Keep good records for ASDRA treasurer for deposits, MOA fees, race fees, dues, championship race.

Secretary:

Keep minutes of the meetings. Keep spreadsheet of email, phone and mailing address. Send out meeting reminders via email or phone tree. Send thank you letters to sponsors. Maintain a file of memberships, media sheets, and waivers kept in the clubhouse for reference by both the Junior and Senior ASDRA Boards. Keep a file of all correspondence for the club. Assist with race sign ups. Maintain a record of race records for each class and trail mileage. Secretary or Vice president can create the program for the award banquet.

Historian:

Take pictures at the races and document race results. Keep up scrapbook of newspaper clippings, educational programs, and fun race events.

**Junior Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association
Training Page 2012**

Musher: _____ Kennel: _____ Date _____
Location _____ Miles run _____ Race or training run _____
Temp. _____ Trail conditions: _____
GPS Average _____ top speed _____ distance _____

Dogs:

Line-up

Age Name Harness size

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Goals of the run:

Notes:

Chores before next run:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

JR. ASDRA asdra@asdra.org

PUTTING ON A JUNIOR RACE

Key Volunteers:

- 1.Race Marshall**
- 2.Timer #1**
- 3.Timer # 2**
- 4.Announcer**
- 5.Chute Judge**
- 6.Snow machine support**
- 7.Trail guards**
- 8.Trail guard coordinator**
- 9.Sled holders**
- 10. Dog painters for World Championship**
- 11. Bib hand out and pick up**

Forms Needed:

- 1.Timing sheets**
- 2.Trail guard sheet with mushers name and bib# on one page.**
- 3.List of mushers and bib# for bib monitor.**

Jr. ASDRA PROCEDURES

RACE RIBBONS:

An inventory of ribbons should be taken well before the race season.

Race ribbons have been ordered from Bovey Trophies.

Email: boveytrf@alaska.net Phone # 277-9323

We have four points' races with five classes.

One Dog class-Two Dog Class-Three Dog Class-Five Dog Class-Seven Dog Class

Rosette ribbons are given for first, second and third places.

First place- Blue rosette ribbons

Second place- Red rosette ribbon and

Third place- Yellow rosette ribbon

(cost of rosettes has been \$3.90 each)

It is best not to put a specific class on the ribbons so they can be used for a whichever class we need them for.

The remaining ribbons are green participation ribbons.

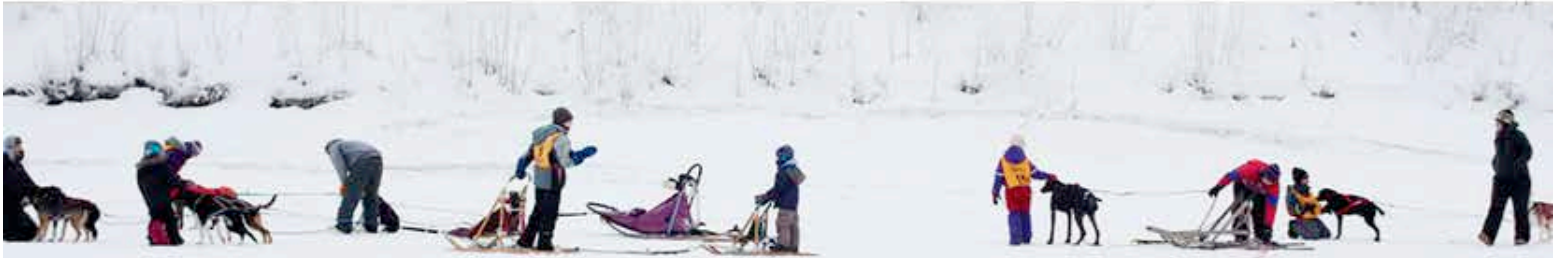
(the cost of participation ribbons has been .78 Cents each)

So, for four races X five classes = 20 rosette ribbons.

But...since we often have a tie for first, second or third, we usually order at least 25 each of the rosette ribbons.

The points races average 25 – 35 mushers and the Jr. World Championship averages 50 mushers. For the point's season, if we have on average 30 mushers x 4 races that is a total of 120 ribbons. Of that 120, at least 20 are rosettes. That means we should have at least 100 participation ribbons on hand for the season.





Check out our race [Schedule](#)

Welcome!

The Junior Dog Mushers of Interior Alaska is a nonprofit organization based in Fairbanks, Alaska. Our purpose is to engage exclusively in nonprofit activities designed to educate minors in the sport of dog mushing. We strive to promote responsible dog care and dog training among minors. Additionally we encourage healthy dog mushing competition and camaraderie among junior mushers. We welcome any families and children who would like to participate and contribute!

- [Register for a Race](#)
- [Become a Member](#)
- [Race Schedule](#)
- [Donate Now!](#)

Sponsors



Mushing Links

- [AK Dog Mushers Assoc.](#)
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Aroostook

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 Last update: 1:44 p.m.

VIDEO

Summer camp students at MSSM learn how much science and love goes into mushing

Next 2 of 3



Julia Bayly | BDN

Retired sled dog leader Apollo was a guest at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics summer camp The Science of Dog Sledding where he appeared to be passing along some trail secrets to camper Esme Power.



By Julia Bayly, BDN Staff
Posted July 14, 2012, at 3:15 p.m.

LIMESTONE, Maine — It's not exactly a high-tech or scientific term, but for a group of young ladies from around the state, "mush" was the word of the week.

The middle-school-age girls were on the Maine School of Science and Mathematics campus last week taking part in the school's annual summer camps.

Now in its 15th year, the camp this summer offered courses in human psychology, geometry, sensory perception, math, architecture, engineering, wildlife exploration, archaeology, survival, space, robotics, computers and dog sledding.

That's right, for four weeks southern Maine musher Melissa Brandt has created a somewhat unlikely duo — science and dog sledding.

For those who think the science of mushing begins and ends with hanging on and praying, Brandt said nothing could be further from the truth.

"In dog sledding we use science and math every day from figuring out how much to feed, calculating training runs, learning how a dog moves," she said. Understanding how snow conditions change in different temperatures affects

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The mission of the MSSM camp, according to Lisa Smith, camp director, "is to build confidence in campers and to further their interests in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

The underlying goal, according to camp organizers, is to balance hands-on learning with the fun of a traditional summer camp.

Hands on is what Brandt's class was all about.

"The campers learn how to make [dog sled] lines, how to check [the dogs'] vitals and basic first aid, learn and practice the commands and even construct their own race bibs and sled," she said. "On the last day they compete as teams running from one checkpoint to another answering questions or completing a task."

The mock race even included a "mad moose" played by one of the camp staffers.

Most of the time the students practiced their newly found mushing skills on each other, but earlier this week three sled dogs — all Alaskan huskies from a Fort Kent kennel — made guest appearances.

"These dogs are really cool and big," said Leea Moody, 11. "Some big dogs are not always friendly but the dogs that came today are really nice."

The three dogs sat or stood patiently while the instructor demonstrated proper harnessing techniques, foot care and how to hook a dog to the sled line and allowed each student the opportunity to listen to the dogs' hearts with a stethoscope.

Sled dog care and behavior was not totally foreign to Esme Power, 12, of Hope, who uses a small kick sled with her husky-mix dog Koko.

"She's pretty hyper," Power said. "I put her on the sled and she really pulls."

Power said she first heard about dog sledding while taking an art class when she was around 6 years old.

"Someone in the class said they wanted to do the Iditarod," she said. "Three years later I finally learned what the Iditarod was and started raising and saving money so I could go."

Power has not made it yet, but for now, camps like the Science of Dog Sledding and working with Koko are pretty good substitutes.

Mackenzie Marks, 13, came all the way from Wells to take part in the camp and has her goals firmly in mind.

"I want to run and race with the dogs," she said. "I love animals."

Marks said she had not known how much actually goes into the mushing lifestyle, especially when it came to dog care.

"I didn't know so many mushers do their own first aid," she said.

"I really hope the campers understand how much goes on behind the scenes in the sport of mushing," Brandt said. "Each dog has countless hours and many miles of training on and off the trails before we ever enter a race [and] we work hard to keep our dogs healthy and happy so that they enjoy running as much as we do."

Brandt has a kennel of racing huskies in southern Maine where her two sons, Ethan, 13, and Braden, 10, are making names for themselves on the sprint circuit within the International Sled Dog Racing Association.

Ethan was the 2011 and 2012 ISDRA silver medalist and Braden took the ISDRA bronze medal this past season.

This year the MSSM summer camp attracted more than 400 campers from one end of the state to the other.

Most live in the campus dormitories for their week of camp, but Smith said some weeks were popular and space was limited, so parents came up to stay with their children in local hotels.

This summer marked the first time in the camp's history all four weeks were filled to capacity, and school officials credit a combination of strong curriculum with Time Warner Cable Co.-sponsored scholarships and bus transportation to and from Limestone for the high enrollment.

Having time to hang out with some happy sled dogs did not hurt, either.


It was hard to tell who was enjoying whom more, but Moody and sled dogs Buddy and Patriot became good friends during the dogs' visit.

"I'm saving my money," Moody said. "I want to go to Kenya and help at an orphanage and I want to get a dog and sled, too, [and] I have to come up with the money for all that myself."

That's just the kind of commitment and enthusiasm Brandt said is needed in mushing.

"I hope they can learn how much the dogs love to run and how much fun it is to run dogs."

Editor's note: BDN reporter and musher Julia Bayly supplied the sled dogs used this past week during the MSSM's Science of Dog Sledding summer camp.

 Recommend this article

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Next story:

[Workers finishing up new Caribou Connector](#) ▶

TOP VIDEO HEADLINES

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Youth

PROGRAM OFFERS
DIVERSE ACTIVITIES



Jessy Brockmeyer pets a dog while a member of the 4-H mushing club prepares for dog mushing. Photo by Cassie Jackson

Spotlights

- ❖ Research indicates that high school seniors in 4-H are nearly two times more likely than other seniors to plan on going to college.
- ❖ Members participate in a 4-H international exchange program — either staying with host families in other countries or hosting youth from Japan. This past year, 21 youth from Japan stayed with families all over the state.
- ❖ Activities are coordinated by 4-H agents and staff in Fairbanks, Palmer, Juneau, Soldotna, Anchorage, Bethel, Juneau, Kodiak, Sitka and Dillingham. Every military installation in Alaska hosts a 4-H program.

4-H OFFERS A LOT OF VARIETY THESE DAYS. In addition to traditional programs, such as raising animals, cooking and sewing, participants may break-dance, luge, serve as legislative pages and study martial arts, science or photography.

A seventh-grade class at Effie Kokrine Charter School in Fairbanks is a 4-H mushing club. Teacher Cassie Jackson works geography, English, math and history into the curriculum and students meet with mushers. Nenana musher Jessie Holmes is working with the class this year and other mushers will stop by.

Students learn about dog care and how to harness the dogs and also about mushing equipment and technique. The class culminates with a couple of spring sessions during which students mush a four-dog team.

Jackson worked with 4-H agent Kendra Calhoun to set up the program. She says tying school subjects to hands-on opportunities that the kids are interested in motivates even reluctant learners. It also gets them outside for exercise.

Freshman Jessy Brockmeyer joined the club as a seventh-grader and liked it so well he has returned as a junior handler the past two years. He will show students how to approach and work with dogs.

He had never mushed before joining the club. “I got to learn something new — and I liked it,” Jessy said.

Some 15,000 Alaska youth participate in 4-H every year, through after-school and special interest activities, camps and summer exchanges. See more information at www.alaska4h.org.