

In the American Kennel Club's ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis.

This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion.

Criteria for Selecting a BSCA Member to Receive the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

The recipient must be a member in good standing of the BSCA for at least ten (10) years (see attachment). They must have undertaken substantial activities to promote the sport of purebred dogs, demonstrated a high level of commitment to the Belgian Sheepdog and embody the attributes outlined in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship [see attachment].

The recipient should regularly attend AKC dog events with their dog(s) and participate in sanctioned activities i.e. conformation, performance and/or companion events of the BSCA and/or Regional clubs.

This annual award will be presented to the deserving BSCA member at the annual awards banquet for their contribution to the BSCA and the Belgian Sheepdog breed. Examples of such contributions might include spearheading a successful program, making a major contribution to the breed, organizing a successful fundraising effort, chairing a committee, being a show chairman, being a BSCA Board Member, being a 'worker bee', or simply showing a selfless act of kindness.

1) How to nominate a person.

Nominations must be from a BSCA Member in good standing in the form of an essay of 500 words or less stating why the individual is deserving of this award. The essay should describe the activities of this individual that makes them a worthy candidate and explain how this person exemplifies good sportsmanship as outlined in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

Send nominations to the Corresponding Secretary at corrsecbsca@jacksonmanor.com by March 30. A list of eligible members is attached below.

2) Selection of the award recipient.

The award recipient will be selected by a vote open to the entire membership.

3) What are the criteria for the award?

The award will recognize an individual who has shown unparalleled examples of sportsmanship and who best exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship as defined in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, including but not limited to: fairness, civility, honesty, unselfishness and respect of the rules. The individual will also have set an example and acted responsibly in furthering the BSCA's objectives:

- To define the standard of the breed and to urge members and breeders to accept the AKC Standard for judging and breeding.
- To promote the Belgian Sheepdog as a show dog, performance dog, family dog, and working dog of many talents.
- To popularize the breed with the general public by providing information and news concerning breeding, care, training and showing.
- To protect and advance the interest in the breed by encouraging sportsmanship.
- To assist in conducting AKC Licensed Specialty shows, obedience trials, performance and companion events.
- To encourage and foster the establishment of Regional Clubs for the betterment of the breed.