

Apprenticeship Policy

Dog show stewarding is an enjoyable activity for many people who wish to take part in the sport of pure bred dogs but may not wish to show or judge. Stewarding is also enjoyed by people who are actively exhibiting but want to occupy their free time at a show. It is an excellent way to learn about different breeds, meet people with similar interests and contribute to the sport.

Ring stewards direct the flow of the ring to allow the judge ample time to examine each dog and the exhibitor to show their dog to the best of their ability. The stewards can ease the pressure felt by both judge and exhibitor by maintaining order and treating every one with respect.

All new applicants for membership in ESCI must serve an apprenticeship, regardless of their prior experience. The purpose of the apprenticeship is to assure that new members understand and utilize both AKC's and ESCI's ring procedures and policies. It also assures that the kennel club we have contracted with will receive the level of professionalism that ESCI members have been noted for through the years.

An apprenticeship ranges from one to three or more shows where the new member will be mentored by one or more experienced members. The mentor will provide instruction and give the apprentice increasingly more difficult tasks until the apprentice is completely running the ring from set up to close. During the apprenticeship, the new member **may not** leave the ring to show their own dog. Apprentices are **not eligible** to receive any reimbursement during this time. The apprenticeship will end when both the mentors and the new member are comfortable with the level of expertise demonstrated.