



YAP™—Youth Ambassador K9 Career Program™ Educating Today's Youth to Fill Tomorrow's K9 Careers

Working dogs perform over 100 unique and invaluable jobs benefitting society, most of which are not currently replicated by humans or technology.

Nona Bauer, Author, Dog Heroes of September 11 & K9 Trainer

Mission

YAP's mission is to educate America's youth about working dogs in order to advance and secure the future of this critical field through mentoring, career, and volunteer opportunities, and through raising awareness of the importance of sustaining the purebred breeds who perform these essential services.

Definition of a "Working Dog"

"Working dog" refers to a highly and specifically trained K9 that learns and performs unique and critical tasks benefitting humans and society in the areas of military and civilian national security, assistance, commerce, conservation, detection, disasters, environment, forensics, law, medicine, security, etc.

YAP Turnkey Program

YAP is developing a scalable curriculum and turnkey package that introduces youth to the working dog field, educating them about its many diverse specialty practices, career requirements, and volunteer services (Release date - May 2014). Additionally, YAP is developing resources for career and volunteer training and preparation; making local opportunities available to interested students; and encouraging participation in self-designed projects that support the students' own interests within the working dog field.

Program Features

Students experience the field firsthand through YAP presentations, on-site demonstrations, volunteer and career information, and "meet and greet" opportunities in classrooms and in the "field" with top level professional working dog teams. The program is structured in age-related tiers with both youth and adult mentors. Independent or group projects and volunteer work are encouraged and fostered.

YAP addresses the diversity of direct and adjunct K9 career topics with an emphasis on civilian and military national security K9 careers.

YAP's Launch and Progress

YAP was launched to rave reviews on February 23, 2012, with 900 students at the Alfred G. Waters Middle School, Middletown, DE, hosted by the school's FFA chapter. The FFA students received top honors at their 2012 National Convention.

Since launching, YAP has been piloted in youth services settings including FFA and Girl Scouts and in schools as diverse as an inner city charter school and an affluent private school; with equal success. The curriculum has expanded to encompass more than 30 new programs meeting middle school STEM criteria in science, technology, engineering and math.

YAP has invitations to showcase its program to ¼ million students and teachers nationwide



The Origin of YAP

David Kontny inspired the creation of YAP and serves on its Advisory Board. Mr. Kontny is the Senior Advisor, Office of Infrastructure Protection for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Co-Chair of the National Explosives Detection Canine Advisory Board, and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Working Group for Dog and Orthogonal Guidelines (SWGDOG).

Mr. Kontny has been directly involved with various canine programs throughout his career in both the armed forces (United States Air Force) and his current assignment with the Department of Homeland Security. YAP launched five months after his suggestion receiving the highest of praise from students, educators, and K9 field experts.

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The Youth Ambassador K9 Career Program™ (YAP™) and Finding One Another: Courage Beyond Measure™ (FOA) are programs of Tails of Hope Foundation, Inc. a New York based not-for-profit organization.

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