

Please read the following files if you are thinking of coming to camp.

Packet Guide

(For all the info in the Pre-camp section of the web site)

Welcome Campers! You made it onto the Pre-camp Information pages! Here, we have compiled the information you will need to make the most of your camping experience. ***YOU WILL BE SIGNING A RELEASE FORM AT CAMP THAT SAYS YOU HAVE READ AND YOU UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION ON THESE PAGES!*** Camp rules are sprinkled throughout these pages as well as more rules that have their own page. Here is what we have for you in the order you should probably read them:

General Instructions – Almost everything you need to know about camp :-)

9 pages Includes:

- Pre-arrival,
- expectations,
- camp community,
- arrival,
- off-leash area,
- checking in,
- photos,
- parking,
- smoking,
- classes and seminars,
- how to earn badges,
- trail info,
- Splash Pond info,
- why you should pace yourself,
- when you'll need to be quiet so people can sleep,
- about the rooms in the lodge,
- clean-up policy,
- poop police explained,
- off-limit areas,
- address/phone at camp,
- will your cell phone work,
- cancellation policy,
- camp store,
- bathrooms,
- commuters from the hotel,
- visitors during camp,
- bringing an RV,
- meals,
- your responsibility,
- wildlife,
- ID for your dog,
- what to bring,
- pages to print,
- schedule changes,
- letterboxing/geocaching,
- suggestions,
- care bear,
- complaints and
- after camp activities

Helping your dog enjoy camp – This will give you interesting information about dog behavior that you can use while at camp to keep your dog safe and happy and help the other dogs at camp feel safe.

11 pages Includes:

- the dog's perspective of camp,
- bite thresholds,
- Aggressive displays are normal,
- reactive dogs,
- yellow bandannas,
- tight leashes = trouble,
- safe and proper dog greetings,
- interrupt staring,
- dogs that love all others need management,
- do YOU have an aggressive dog?,
- what is aggression,
- don't punish threat displays,
- normal dogs,
- dogs with space issues,
- fearful dogs,
- dangerous dogs,
- help for aggression,
- is the dog really dangerous,
- preventing aggression in your dog and others,
- and report your dog's bite history to the camp director

Camp Rules for everyone's safety-

7 pages Includes:

- Your camp community and your attitude
- General Safety:
 - Barking dogs
 - Safety Bandanas
 - Bell/Emergency Signal
 - Smoking
 - Medical Emergencies
 - Going to town/leaving the camp property
 - Bug Spray/Perfume
- General Rules
- Off-leash play yard
- Agility Field
- Splash Pond
- Store Rules
- Roommate Rules
- Kid's Safety

How to choose lodging and what dog(s) to bring

4 pages Includes:

- Your dog may decide your lodging options
- Tents
- Rental RV's
- Bringing your own RV
- Private rooms in the lodge
- Group Rooms in the lodge
- Motel in town
- How many dogs should you bring?
- Questions to ask yourself to determine the best lodging

Are Crates Mandatory? Answers to a frequently asked question and why you should train your dog to be comfortable in a crate before attending camp **1 page**

Your well mannered dog may counter surf at camp! Read this to find out why and what you can do about it. **1 page**

Off-Leash Policy- If you think you might let your dog off-leash in camp somewhere other than the off-leash play yard or your room, please read this first and watch the video (video link is found on page 1 of this document) **2 pages**

Top 10 reasons you might not enjoy camp – Based on feedback from past campers, 95% -97% of the campers LOVED camp, but these are the top reasons the 3% - 5% didn't think camp was the greatest thing they have done with their dog. **3 pages**

Repeat Camper Perks- If you are a returning camper, there are certain perks you get to enjoy! **1 page**

Camp Tour- This is a photo tour of the camp. It gives you an idea of what to expect at camp. **Web page with photos and brief descriptions**

Meet the Staff– This is a list of the possible instructors for camp, and the topics they are able to teach, with a photo and a short biographical paragraph or two on each instructor or staff member. Check your camp schedule to see who will be teaching at your camp. **9 pages**

Release Form/Camp Waiver – A copy of the waiver of liability is provided for you to read before camp. You are not required to return or even print off this copy. You'll be asked to sign a copy of this form when you arrive at camp. For repeat campers, this form has not changed in the past several years, except to remove reference to Dog's Choice Training Center since DSA owns the camp now, in case you want to skip reading it. **2 pages**

Pages to print:

Health Check Form – This is a form for you to print out and take to your vet's office to verify your dog's shot records, titers, heartworm check and fecal exam. If your dog has not had a fecal check within the last month before camp, please get one. Internal parasites are ubiquitous, and various ones can be contracted by swallowing a flea, eating an infected animal's poop, or walking on an area contaminated by another canid. Once discovered and treated, it takes a while to get them out of the system, so try to get this taken care of before two weeks ahead of camp. A special health examination (like the one you'd get for the department of agriculture when a dog is leaving the country), is NOT needed. Simply have your vet or the receptionist verify the records, and **bring this form with you to camp** (don't forget!)

1 page

Sample Schedule Page 1 & Page 2– This is a sample schedule that shows the basic camp activities offered at each camp. Your camp may vary from this schedule, but this is the basic routine and meal plan for the week. You'll get a schedule specific to your camp by email before camp. **Please bring it to camp with you.** We don't plan to hand out additional copies at camp unless there have been major changes to what is listed. Last minute changes will be noted on the dry erase board, so that you can make a note of it and we try to include info about any changes in the announcements during the meals.

Map and Directions to Camp – This is a close-up map and directions of how to get to the camp from the nearest exits. This shows how to get to the camp from either of the major highways going north through Michigan. The Mapblast version often takes you north on 131 to Cadillac (exit 181), and then go east on M-55. This way is the most direct if you're coming up from the Chicago area. **1 page**

Map of camp property- This will give you an idea of how the camp is laid out. It shows the lodge, camping/RV areas, pond, some of the trails, agility course, parking area, etc. **1 page**

Payment Coupons – These are for your convenience, if you wish to pay a little at a time every few months (optional.) Checks can get lost when you just send them in with no accompanying paperwork, so this helps the office keep track of your payments. **1 page**

Chapter 1 of your DSA manual - **PRINT these pages!** These will go in the binder you get at check-in. These pages contain loads of helpful info. DSA laws, how to turn in your badge forms, info about the O&S sessions, etc. **6 pages**