

Dog Scouts of America
Activity Check-off sheet

Updated 8-27-09

7-12 YEARS OLD

Junior Scout:

All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward based methods. Child can be verbally quizzed and helped with the "written test".

Ages 7-12:

- Handler can play nicely with his/her dog and handler can safely meet another dog
- Handler has taught his/her dog a few basic exercises (Example: sit, down, come, etc.)
- Handler shows love and respect for the dog and knows how to protect the dog by standing up for him/her
- Handler knows safety rules (for approaching a dog, being approached by a loose dog, riding a bike while dog is visible, etc.)
- Handler manages the dog's environment to keep the dog feeling safe
- Handler can explain when to use the phrase, "please get your dog back" or "please stay back"
- Handler can explain how to encourage a proper greeting behavior between dogs
- Handler understands that aggression is normal dog "language", and can explain how to help the dog make other choices (i.e.: attention to owner)
- Handler can explain proper leash handling techniques to discourage aggression
- Handler understands the use of and can name 3 calming/negotiation signals
- Handler promises to pick up dog's waste and dispose of it properly
- Handler can explain the Dog Scout laws in their own words and promises to uphold them
- Handler can explain the value of helping the dog make good choices using indirect access
- Handler can list two indirect access exercises
- Handler understands and agrees that the "leave it" cue is something they must work on the dog's entire life. For the test, the food and "other animal" needs to be something the dog clearly shows he/she really wants to get. If the dog demonstrates no interest in food or an other animal, two other objects the dog desires such as toys, dogs, people, etc can be used. The two items should be tested separately. Can be a stationary exercise in which the dog simply backs away from food and a toy when cued. Dog does not need to do a leave it with an animal.
- Leave it with Food
- Leave it with a toy
- Handler will have at least two plastic bags to clean up after their dog at all times when a dog is with them

- Dog is safe and comfortable with strangers in normal circumstances with handler support and management. Dog can demonstrate an appropriate greeting of a human.
- Dog is safe and comfortable being near other dogs on leash and off leash if handler feels it is safe and manages the environment
- Dog demonstrates an understanding of heel position and a heel cue and will choose to maintain heel position keeping the leash loose during a heeling pattern that includes a left, right and U-turn, for a distance of at least 10 steps for each "leg" of the L.
- Dog can sit when handler stops at least 2 times during the heeling pattern (leash tightening is not part of the cue). These sits should be demonstrated on a straight part of the pattern and not at a turn.
- Dog will sit at least 2 times in response to a verbal cue or hand signal while not heeling and leash must remain loose
- Dog will lie down at least 2 times in response to a verbal cue or hand signal and leash must remain loose- A treat or toy can be used to motivate the dog if needed.
- Dog will come directly to the handler 2 times when called from a distance of at least 4' (on-leash). Handler can back-up while calling the dog, no treats or other rewards.
- Dog will stay in either a sit or a down position, while handler walks to end of 4' leash and returns

Children 7-18 yrs old who earn the Jr. Scout badge are eligible to earn all the specialty badges.