



**Dog Scouts of America**  
**Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet**

**Musical Freestyle -**  
**Beginner**

Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

- Handler understands and can explain the concept of Musical Freestyle**
- Handler is willing to attempt “unfamiliar” movements like dance steps, creative body movement, etc. and incorporates these into a routine performed with the dog**
- Dog remains under control while working, is attentive, and responds to the handler’s body movement cues and voice cues**
- Handler and dog can perform a forward heeling sequence from the left and the right sides for at least 10 steps**
- Dog can perform a spin originating from a side position (either left or right) and a spin that begins in front**
- Dog and handler can perform a leg-weaving sequence – either walking weaves or a stationary figure 8 pattern**
- Dog and handler can perform a backing sequence, where the dog backs in a straight line for a minimum of 4 steps – sequence can begin on either the right or left side, or from the front position**
- Dog will perform a jump over either a body part or a prop**
- Handler can choose music that matches the dog’s pace, and can set a freestyle routine to music**
- Dog and handler must perform a sequence of moves set to music with no breaks in flow – routine length must be at least 1 minute and not to exceed 1 ½ minutes**