



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Sign Language

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 demonstrates an understanding of Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
- Handler can pair a sign/signal with an already known word or behavior using the 'ABCs'
- Handler has taught the dog at least 6 signs from the list below**
 - Car
 - Walk
 - Outside
 - Quiet
 - Ball
 - Cookie
 - Dinner/Eat
 - Find It/Where?
 - What?
 - Go/Get It
 - Mom/Dad (or other family identifier)
 - Bed/Sleep
 - Speak
 - Shoes/Slippers
 - Play
 - Off
 - Get On
 - Leave It
 - Pay Attention
 - Friend
- Dog shows that he understands the meaning of the signs he has been taught, either by performing the behavior or by his response**
- Handler can demonstrate at least 12 signs from the above list, whether or not the dog has been taught the signs. Handler should choose the signs most applicable to their home environment**
- Dog demonstrates that he understands and will respond to non-auditory signs for 5 obedience behaviors – sit, down, heel, stay, go-to-heel, come, stand**
- Handler has taught the dog the 'I love you' sign and the dog responds to the sign by touching or licking the hand or giving the handler a kiss**
- Handler has taught the dog a visual reward marker or 'click' so that training is still possible if the dog were to lose his hearing**
- Handler has taught the dog a visual 'finished' or 'all done' cue**