



## Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

## Weight Pull

**PURPOSE:** This badge demonstrates that the handler knows how to condition his/her dog for the sport of weight pull, and that the dog will pull graduated increments of weight at the urging of his handler, who stands 16 feet away.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** The dog must pull the weighted sled with the correct working form for a distance of 16 feet. The dog must repeat the behavior three times, with the weight on the sled increased each time. There is not a specific dog to weight ratio, but the dog should be able to pull 2 to 3 times his weight easily if he understands the concept and technique of weight pull. Dog must show work effort and cannot be given any help, like a push or pull, in order to be successful.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** The handler must be able to harness the dog independently and must understand the safety practices for the sport. The handler must stand 16 feet from the dog to call.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** A weight pull sled consisting of a wide, flat surface on runners for snow or a wheeled or rail sled for indoor or summer weight pulls is required. The dog must wear a properly fitting weight pull harness with padding and a spreader bar. A sturdy line about 8 feet long is needed and must have an easy to attach snap to hook to the harness ring.

The chute must be set up on a flat surface and marked lines, cones or a 16-foot rope with a “tip-up” are necessary to tell when the dog has pulled the required distance. Some form of measured weight such as dog food bags, cement blocks or actual weights are needed to add on after each successful pull. Helpers are needed to assist with holding in the chute.

**PROCESS:** The dog is set up and attached to the sled in the start area. The initial weight is loaded onto the sled. The handler moves to the finish line while helpers hold the dog in place. The dog is released when the handler calls. After each successful pull the dog is reset in the start area and weight is added to the sled. Three successful pulls are required in order to earn the badge.

### ALLOWED:

- Wheeled cart or sled on snow
- Tiny dogs may pull a smaller sled
- Multiple cues, including lots of verbal encouragement

### NOT ALLOWED:

- Anything harmful to the dog’s wellbeing
- Shock bungee on sled or cart
- Using food, another dog or person used to entice the dog to move forward
- Any other dogs in the pulling area
- Pulling without the correct type of harness
- Using a very low weight for the size of the dog – dog must show effort to succeed
- Any movement of handler across the line
- Pushing the cart to get started