

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere

Volume 21 Issue 3 May/June 2018

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Summer is a great time to work on K9 conditioning to get your dog in shape for Puissance. Check out the requirements for Puissance at dogscouts.org/base/puissance

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& Troop Talk
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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
July 15th

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

Leadership Retreat 2018

Sally Hoyle, Vice President

This year's Leadership Retreat took place May 18-20. Though we were small in number, due to a couple of last minute illnesses/injuries, we shared a great deal of knowledge with one another.

We started out Friday evening by sharing a great meal and catching up with one another in an informal way. After traveling to get to camp the dogs enjoyed stretching their legs by hiking or in the play yards, especially the puppies in attendance including 6 month old Collie Monte, 16 week old Golden Retriever Hamlin and the youngest at just 10 weeks, Mackenzie the Old English Sheepdog.



On Saturday Martha Thierry helped us to explore the Japanese concept of yabi sabi, which is a view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection. It encourages the exploration of beauty that is imperfect, impermanent and incomplete. Characteristics of the wabi sabi aesthetic include asymmetry, roughness, simplicity, modesty and an appreciation of natural objects. It was easy to apply this concept to our dogs, ourselves and how we train, recognizing our own imperfection and those of our dogs. We had a really good and thought provoking discussion after which we applied the yabi sabi view to a craft by painting rocks. Each person painted three rocks; one to leave at camp, one to keep, and one that we put the DSA web site on so that we could leave it in a location to be found by others.

I enjoyed leading a discussion on engagement, where we were able to explore ways to get more troop members involved with activities and how to bring new people to 1DSA. Lots of ideas were shared among the group and brainstorming allowed us to be creative in our thinking.



My favorite idea from the discussion was to continually ask "Did my/your dog have fun?" since this is one of the fundamental reasons for the activities we do—they should be fun for our dogs.

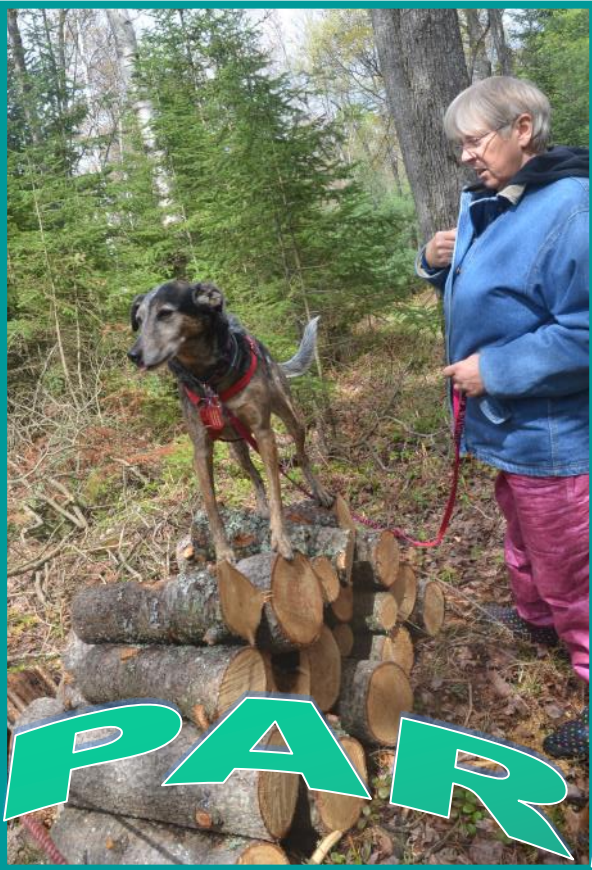


Leadership Retreat 2018

Lonnie Olson introduced Parkour and showed some photos taken of dogs enjoying the environment by playing on downed trees on a sandy peninsula in Florida.

She talked about the new badge requirements and then led us on a hike to let our dogs give Parkour a try.

As expected, some dogs took to it immediately and began climbing on tree stumps and piles of logs while others proceeded more cautiously.



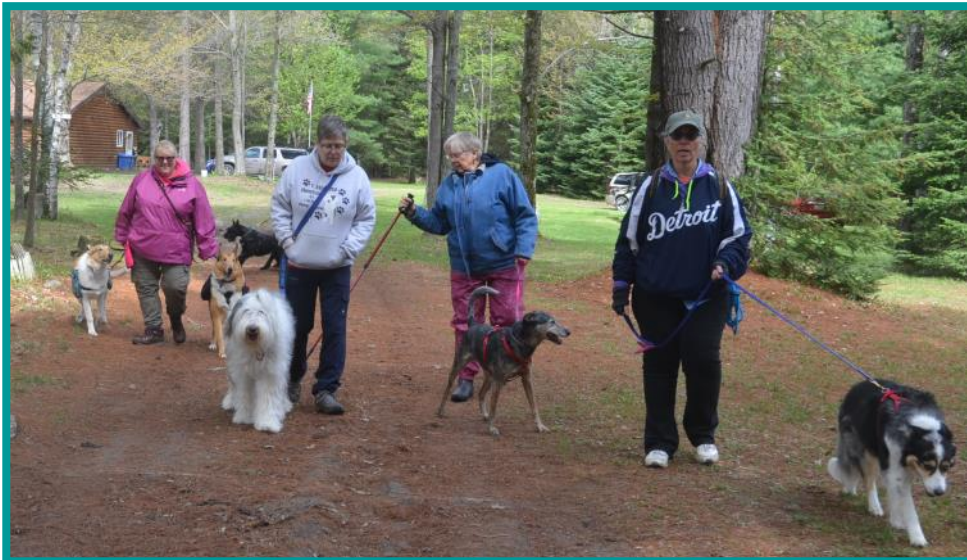
All of the dogs seemed to enjoy the hike with even the most cautious of the bunch gaining confidence along the way.

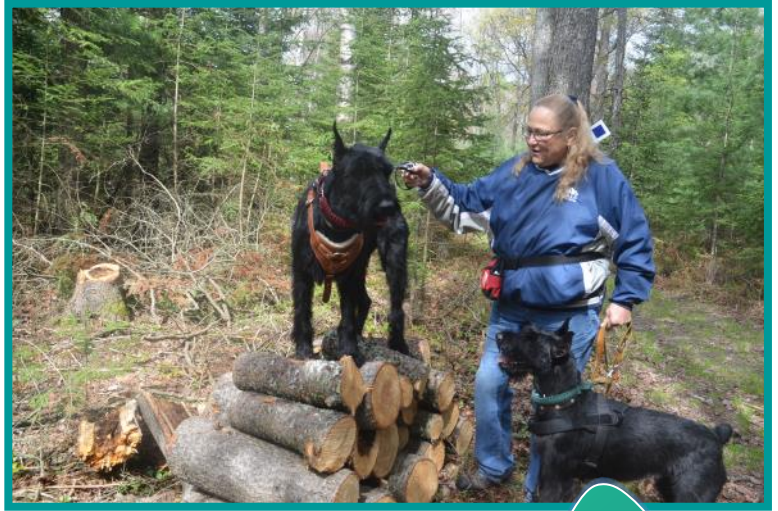


Leadership Retreat 2018



PARKOUR





PARKOUR



Our hike led us to the trash agility field where the dogs were able to climb on platforms, over barrels and walk on planks.

Leadership Retreat 2018



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Along the way we collected natural objects from the forest floor.

Later, we used these to create a beautiful picture frame for our Parkour photos as a memento of our weekend.



TRACKING

On Sunday Fay Reid walked us through requirements for the Tracking badge and told us about how she and her dog Goldy have been working to understand this sport. Fay took us through the first steps of how to learn tracking and then Goldy demonstrated for us.



Later, we went outside to watch Fay and Goldy work a path that was laid without their knowledge and then all of the dogs got to try a short path laid with treats. I was pleased and surprised that even little Mackenzie was able to be successful using the steps Fay showed us.



Leadership Retreat 2018

As we finished up our photo frame and painted glass votives crafts Cady Ness-Smith told us about activities for troop promotion. Cady does a great job getting out in her community and spreading the word about Dog Scouts. It was great to hear her experiences and to share our best practices as well.

AGILITY

As our final activity for the weekend I introduced the group to several of the drills from our new Agility Partners badge. It was a great way for me to give my training plan for camp a try. I loved how easily the drills set up in a small space and it was great to see both people and dogs improve their skills in just a short period of time. I think this year's Michigan campers are really going to enjoy working on this badge and will have a lot of fun with the drills.



PARTNERS



I'd like to thank everyone who attended this year's Leadership Retreat. Claudette Smith, Lonnie, Martha, Fay, Cady and I all worked to make this event successful. Everyone contributed food, knowledge and fun and it was a great weekend! And to answer my own question above, yes, I know my dogs had fun! That by itself is enough. :-)



Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

New Badges for 2018!

Sally Hoyle, Vice President

DSA offers many ways to challenge our dogs by teaching them new things and helping them earn badges. Periodically we add new badges when we discover opportunities to provide our dogs with new experiences and introduce them to behaviors not already covered in existing badges. This year we have added two new badges, Parkour and Agility Partners, which will be introduced at Michigan camps this summer. The Parkour badge requires no special equipment and the Agility Partners badge requires minimal agility equipment so we hope many of you will attempt them with your dogs.

Parkour

Parkour for dogs is a physical activity where dogs interact with their environment, jumping or climbing on, going in or over, or going around obstacles found in their everyday world. Obstacles that dogs can interact with are limited only by the handlers imagination. This badge encourages handlers to use obstacles found in nature. Parkour is good for dogs of all ages and sizes as it increases confidence and furthers the human/canine bond. It helps cognition in older dogs by providing mental stimulation and can make everyday walks with your dog more enjoyable for both of you. Safety is paramount when doing Parkour and therefore an appropriately sized harness that has a strap between the front legs is required. Parkour skills challenge the dog in interacting with obstacles in sequence and from a distance, and requires stimulus control.



Agility Partners

Handlers who love doing agility with their dogs have asked for badge opportunities beyond what is currently offered. The new Agility Partners badge provides those new challenges. This advanced agility badge consists of a series of short drills and was designed for dogs that already understand course sequencing. The drills contain no contact obstacles; only jumps, tunnels and 6 weave poles. Each drill has been specifically designed to improve teamwork, increase speed and further develop handling skills. Before attempting the skills required for this badge the dog must have already earned the Agility 1 badge at a minimum and must be able to successfully complete jumps of all types, tunnels and weaves. The drills that make up this badge are fun and handlers will get a real sense of accomplishment when successfully completing each of the drills with his/her dog.



Rainbow Bridge



Your Canine Guardian Angel

I know that you must miss me,
By the tears rolling down your face.

But believe me when I tell you that,
I'm in a very good place.

There are meadows here to run in,
And plenty of rabbits to chase.

There are other dogs to play with,
To frolic with and race.

So please don't worry about me,
My spirit feels light as can be.

There's no more pain to plague me,
I'm young again and free.

And I'll be watching over you still,
Of that you can be sure.

I'm your canine guardian angel,
And my love for you remains pure.



Rainbow Bridge

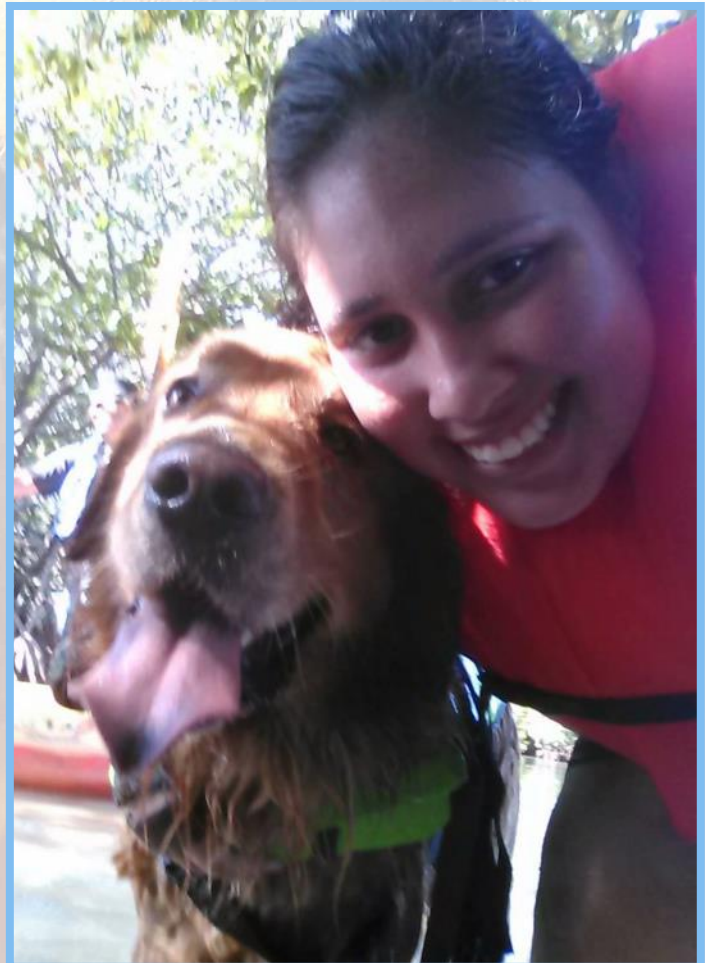
Bryant Pajuelo, DSA

On Saturday, May 5th, 2018, Monica Pajuelo with DSA Troop 157 said goodbye to Bryant at the age of 7 1/2, sending him on his final journey over the Rainbow Bridge after a short 7 week battle with Lymphatic Cancer. Bryant and his wonderful mother, Monica, had been a member of this troop for almost all of his life.

Bryant was incredibly sweet and gentle, and had an amazing bond with his mother. He worked as her Service Dog selflessly as she went to college for the first time, and helped her train his successor, Biscoff. Bryant is survived by his Mother, Monica, his sister, Bubbles, brother Biscoff and the rest of their family.



He will be genuinely missed by all of us in his Dog Scout Family.



RIP Bryant 11/19/2010 - 05/05/2018

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Lola, RN, DSA

On May 5, 2018 Terri Cannici of Troop 157 sent Lola over the Rainbow Bridge after a short battle with Cancer at the age of 10.

Terri and Lola accomplished many things together including competing in Rally Obedience. Lola earned her DSA Badge in July of 2015 and her Art of Shaping Badge in 2016. Lola was always game for whatever Terri had in mind, participating in many of her activities.

Lola was an amazing Therapy Dog who spent many a Saturday helping children become more confident readers, and her last assignment was working in the elementary schools following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy.

Lola was a much loved and valued member of our troop and will be sincerely missed by all who knew her.

Lola is survived by her brother Buddy, Terri & her husband Jeff.



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Sophie Dudley – Sweet Girl

By Anita Dudley, Troop 177

I'm so glad that pictures speak a thousand words as right now I'm speechless well almost.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018 JD & I said goodbye to our 9 ½ year old Goldendoodle, Sophie. She was so loving, full of joy and always happy to see people. She fell ill on Saturday evening and we rushed her to the emergency clinic and in just a few hours our world with her came tumbling down and could not believe what we were hearing. She had just been diagnosed with Hemangiosarcoma, a cancer that is fed by the blood vessels and her spleen was filled with tumors. She was bleeding internally into her belly. We prayed that the vet had made a mistake, or a miracle was going to happen. We were made to make a difficult decision on Sunday to bring her home and let her live out her life and keep her comfortable at the same time. The prognosis was not good even with extensive treatment. She was no longer her playful bouncy self and the happy girl we knew she was. On Wednesday her time finally ended and her pain is no longer with her. She has joined her other canine friends Eugene and Maggie, in heaven along with her grandpa Jim.

Sophie came to us in August 2008, as this cute little “red ribbon” puppy who was the last of the litter to be sold. We picked her up and the poor little thing threw up from her birth home in Illinois all the way back to Indianapolis. We thought then oh no she is going to be a dog who gets car sick. But that was not the case. She loved to ride and went everywhere with us. Even though JD and I had dogs all of our lives Sophie became a part of our family and had a special spot in our hearts immediately non like any other.



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Her life began when we decided to take her to training classes and I wanted to make her the best trained dog ever. In my opinion I thought I was training her and teaching her so much, but she taught us so much more than we could have ever taught her. She was so smart and with the help of an experienced trainer and a lot of work we were able to train her to become JD's service dog. She went everywhere with us and the bond was built. She loved to work for her Data, picking up things for him, assisting him and walking and just being a good companion.

When she wasn't working she loved her fun time with Mom. She was a certified Dog Scout with the Dog Scouts of America. She had attended Dog Scout camp in 2010, 2011 and 2012. She accomplished earning 20+ merit badges. Sophie hiked, camped, canoed, kayaked and biked around Mackinac Island. We walked the Mackinac Bridge more than once. Sophie loved the water, loved the snow and even went sledding. She loved to play ball and chew on her antlers. Sophie loved her canine friends. They will miss her too!



Sophie was our world and we were hers. It was amazing how she adapted differently when she was with me and when she was with JD.



Sophie was the most amazing dog we ever had. She would make us laugh at a time when smiles were very few, she would make us smile. She kept us company, shared our food, checked on us when we weren't feeling well and was the best companion that anyone could ever ask for.

Sophie came to us from a divine place for a reason and purpose. Now she has returned. The circle of our lives together is complete. Sophie's physical presence will always be missed, and we will hold her dear to our hearts. Sweet dreams, sweet Sophie "Doodlebutt".

We miss you, so watch over us until we meet again.....



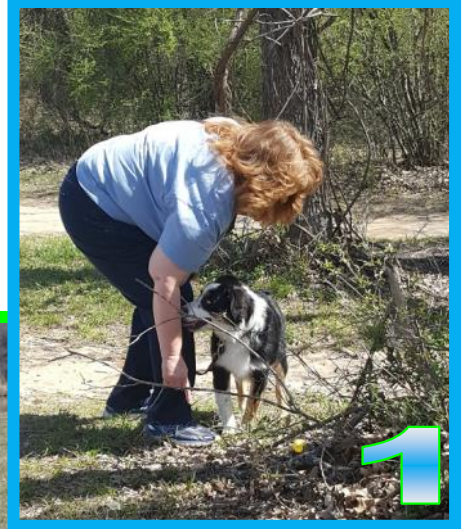
Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff

Troop 119 has had a fun & exciting spring!!

In March we had our annual Doggie Easter Egg Hunt! This is a troop favorite and this year did not disappoint. Troop dogs nose-searched for over 600 eggs hidden over several acres at YMCA Camp Carter. Once the dog found the egg and let his human know by either nosing it or picking it up, he got the liver treat inside! If the dog was super lucky, he found one of 12 eggs that had the prize chick inside that was redeemable for prizes. Prizes were also awarded for the most eggs found and the most festive dog/human team.



1. Marshall finds his first Easter egg
2. Cheryl & Biscuit ready to cash in eggs for prizes
3. Sebastian tells dad there's an egg in the creek
4. Luke finds his first Easter egg
5. Geo finds an egg
6. Jasper shows Lacey where his beagle nose found the egg
7. Chance in serious search for eggs

Troop 119—TX (cont.)



1. Troop gets instructions for the baseball game



2. Austin comes to the plate

3. Alex says "Batter up!"



4. Stevie Ray gets a double

5. Sasha is stylin' to win!



6. Mozzie says he's going for a grand slam!

7. Biscuit says, "Play ball!"



8. Harper travelling through her stadium tour



In April we had a new and exciting spring activity! We had several troop members pitch in to create a baseball themed meeting/game. One group participated in a baseball set up where they got hits and advanced around the bases based on behaviors that they performed. They could choose a card with various levels of difficulty by deciding if they wanted to try for a single, a double, a triple or a grand slam. They got a couple of tries to perform the behavior. If they missed on the third attempt, they struck out and had to try again when they were back up to bat. If they got a hit, they also advanced the other base runners.

While the baseball game was going on, another group was participating in the Baseball Stadium Tour (aka the Great American Pennant Chase). Each dog had a tour guide that lead them to a variety of stadium stops and they had activities to do at each city/stadium. Once the dogs had all participated in the stadium tours and baseball game, they could visit the concession stand for drinks, hot dogs and special treats for them and drinks and popcorn for their humans. Everybody had a great time and we are especially thankful to the committee members Leslie James, Maureen Callahan & Mona Belcher led by Karen Phillips for a great & fun meeting. Thanks, too, to the spouses and additional troop volunteers who worked to make create such an awesome event! We're looking forward to more fun & excitement in the months ahead!

Troop 157—FL

Theresa Irvine

On March 3, 2018 several of our troop members supported the Broward County Walk for the Animals event, which is a 1.25 mile walk along the New River in the heart of downtown Ft. Lauderdale. This year we joined the Humane Society Animal Assisted Therapy pack and helped raise funds to support their goal of \$5000.

All donations received went towards the Humane Society of Broward County programs providing shelter, aid and responsible adoptions to animals entrusted to our care, and educates the community about respect and kindness to all animals. It was a beautiful day to get out and spend time with our furbabies, while supporting a great community cause.



Marjory Stoneman Douglas – Therapy Dog Teams and Troop Provide Assistance

On Wednesday, February 14th, 2018, Valentine's Day, the unthinkable happened in our community. A gunman entered a local high school, opening fire, killing 17 people, and wounding dozens of others. It was the thing nightmares are made of. Within hours our local therapy organizations mobilized and sent dozens of Therapy Teams into the local schools, vigils, memorial services, and eventually Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School itself as the teachers, staff, and eventually students returned. Several members of DSA Troop 157 answered the call to help the surviving students, teachers and staff cope with the grief and emotional trauma they are now dealing with. Most prominently, Grace, with the Humane Society of Broward County's Animal Assisted Therapy Program, Jessie and Shelby with Share-a-Pet, and Ripley with Canine Assisted Therapy. All three worked tirelessly as they helped this community find a way to return to work and school. Other members of our troop assisted in many ways. DSA Troop 157 is incredibly proud to have served our community in this way.

DSA TROOP 157

#MSDSTRONG



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

At the request of her co-worker, Gina took Peanut (*also pictured bottom right*) to a Daisy Troop meeting in Parkland to bring some happiness to the troop of Daisy Scouts (each girl was affected by the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in a different way). I was also asked to talk about pet safety (the Daisy Scouts are working on a pet safety badge). Gina had never done a safety presentation, but it was awesome, and...it was the best I've ever seen Peanut behave. He represented the troop proudly and benefited from all the training and guidance our troop leaders **Cynthia LeBouef Stone** and **Christine Geschwill** have provided him!



Liz, Maria and Gina also brought their pups Jessie, Jolie and Peanut to attend a local Vigil held in Pembroke Pines, FL to be there for the community paying tribute to the lives that were lost on February 14th. It was very heartwarming to see the communities and organization come together to show their support.



Teresa and Ripley (*pictured left*) are also certified to volunteer for the Fort Lauderdale Airport AmbassaDog program were able to meet and greet all the MSD students/families at the airport terminal gates for the flights taking them to Washington, DC to walk participate at the "March For Our Lives – End Gun Violence".



What a heartfelt honor for our troop to be able to support so many aspects of the community during the healing stages of this tragic event that will always be with us.



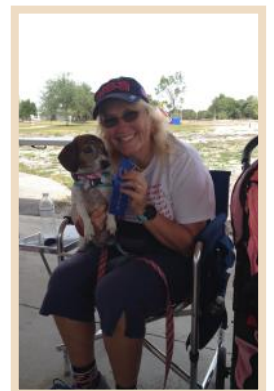
Troop 157—FL (cont.)



DSA Troop 157 Olympics



On April 21st, 2018 our troop's Dog Scout Olympics took place at Heritage Park. Our troop looks forward to this event each year as it is fun time for everyone to interact with fellow troop members and play games with their dog scouts. Marcel was working the grill, flipping burgers and hot dogs which were delicious. While the grill was going there were many fun competitive events for the dogs to participate in. There was a game for everyone and ribbons were handed out to just about every participant.



This year we had a fundraising raffle that included a dozen awesome baskets filled with goodies with the proceeds being donated to our troop fund, which helps us fund our "Prong/Choke Collar for No-Pull Harness exchange program" at events we attend throughout the year.

Aston Gardens



Alzheimer's Walk



On Saturday, April 28, 2018 our troop was invited to participate in an Alzheimer's Walk at Aston Gardens Assisted Living Facility in Parkland. We had a great turnout and were graciously welcomed by the residents. We greeted every resident as they made their way around the lake to where we ended the walk to find a delicious breakfast buffet waiting for all who walked. We helped to raise a lot of money for a great cause. Participating were Dog Scouts: Linda (Jessie); Lisa & Marcel (Lily, Chaos, Rebel); Maria (Jolie), Gina (Peanut); Teresa (Ripley); Sue & Scott (Rocky); Jim (Shelby); Shari (Penny).

Troop 177—IN

Robin Porter—Newshound

March Sledding

Indiana and much of the Midwest seemed to have a never-ending winter this year. On Saturday, March 24 Indianapolis received 10" of snow! Hallie and Robyn managed to join many others at the sledding hill that afternoon. It's not every day you see a big poodle racing downhill in a toboggan!

Hallie endures the toboggan ride, but her real treat is jumping out at the bottom of the hill and doing zoomies in the snow! Soon after this a local television news team visited the hospital on pet therapy night. Robyn and photogenic Hallie appeared on TV!



Hallie sledding

2018 Mutt Strut

Anita Dudley took her Boston Terrier "granddog" and Robyn Porter took Hallie to the Indianapolis Mutt Strut on the grounds of the Indianapolis 500. The 2.5 mile fundraiser walk followed the IndyCar Grand Prix course on part of the oval track and part of the curvy infield course. Robyn and Hallie were interviewed by television news and appeared on TV the second time in recent weeks!



Robyn & Hallie greet a large lizard on the famous start/stop line, the yard of bricks

Sharon Massey and Zena attended as well, but never caught up to Anita and Robyn in the large crowd. However, a photo of Sharon and Zina was published in the Indianapolis newspaper!



Anita's granddog & Hallie in front of the first turn wall

Troop 177—IN (cont.)



Peggy and Sharon with dogs near the ruins



Zena splashing

Hallie with ruins in the background



May Hike

Peggy Kraus with Casey & Penny, Sharon Massey and Zena and Robyn Porter with Hallie & Griffin went on a spring hike in May at Holiday Park. The Indianapolis Park is home to The Ruins, remnants of a New York building that were brought here decades ago. In addition, many trails lead down to the edge of the White River, and the dogs loved splashing around in the mud and water!

Muddy Zena Griffin Hallie Casey & Penny after the hike

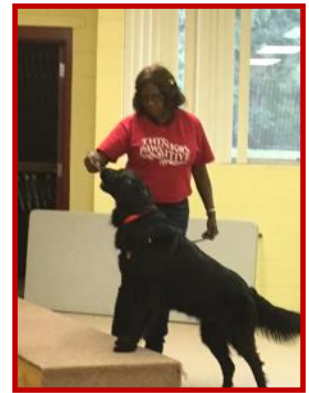


Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



In April we were able to host an information table on Dog Scouts and responsible pet parenting at the Seminole County's Paws and Claws Adopt-a-thon. Thanks to Steve and Marilyn, Cyndi, Fran, and Mary Ann for volunteering for this event.



In May we used environmental features from our meeting hall and helped our dogs through some basic Parkour exercises, then moved into scentwork. The dogs were introduced to odor and the handlers were given some steps for progression. We ended with some mini searches with Birch and handler scent.



Thanks to Mary Ann and Carol for taking some pictures of our activities.

Troop 188—CT

Amanda Wacasey

Spring is here and the Easter bonnets come out! This is our annual event that lets both Troop members and their humans show their creativity. This event is open to anyone that wants to join in the fun and the prizes are sponsored by Raining Cats and Dogs, a local pet boutique.



This year we were featured on Lauren's Crazy Pet Show. They interviewed Troop members and did a wonderful video showcasing the parade and the work that we do in the community.

If you'd like to check out the video, it can be found on the DSA Troop 188 Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/DSATroop188



Our new project is the DSA Troop 188 website. We are learning as we go along. Just like our Scouts, we are expanding our knowledge and can't wait to show off our new talents. It's still a work in process, and not everything is filled out yet, but we know that come summer we'll have some wonderful pages to share with everyone.

Stop by and give us a look at DSATroop188.com and check back often for updates.

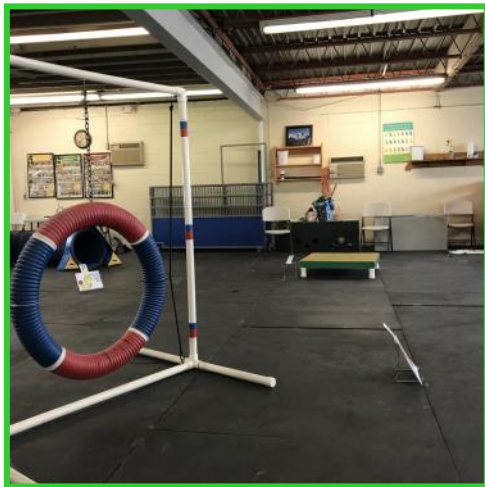
Troop 188—CT (cont.)



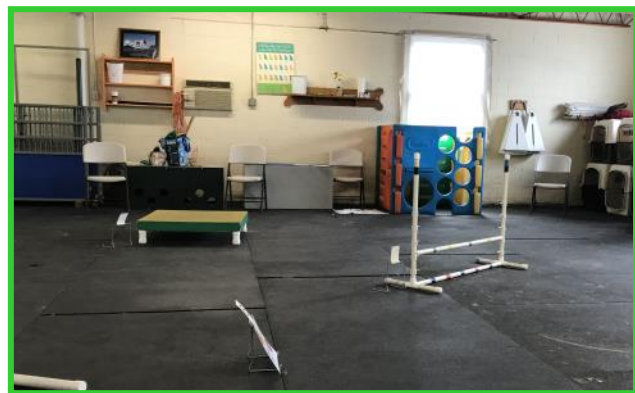
Our April meeting got everyone thinking about Nutrition. We've started planning for the new badge and hope to be well on our way by summer. Our food drive is scheduled and we are looking forward to partnering with our local shelters.

The month was cold and snowy so our outdoor activities were on hold until the weather got better, but that just meant more fun indoors.

Luna working on her Therapy Badge



Indoor Agility just for fun



Our May meeting was all about crate games. Since our dogs need to be comfortable in their crates at events and with new cadets joining, now is the time to work on those skills.

Everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather and a chance to be out and about.

Have a great summer everyone!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

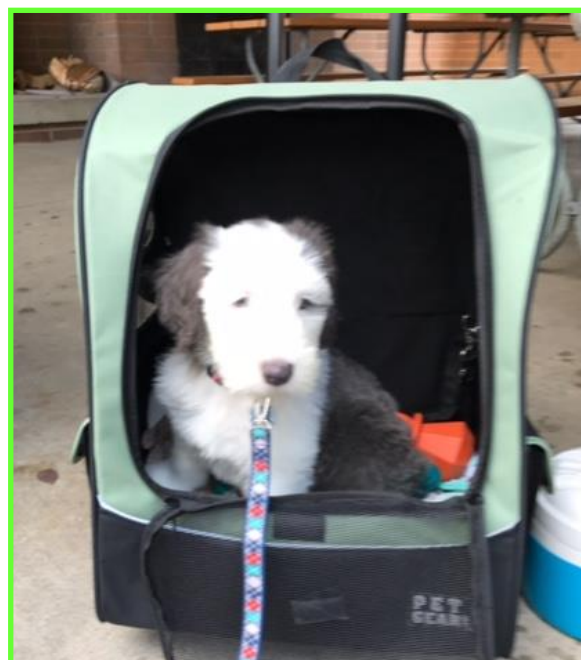
Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Spring has finally sprung in Michigan and NW Ohio and we have been very glad to enjoy sunshine and warmer temperatures. We were able to get started with our “Tuesdays in Toledo” hikes led by troop member Diane Baughman. These hikes take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the most southern part of our troop’s geography. Diane selects the locations for these hikes and shows troop members the variety of great parks Toledo has to offer. We enjoy daylight in this area until about 9pm in the spring and summer so troop members are able to get to the park selected for each hike in time to enjoy a great walk with good friends both 2 and 4-legged.



We have also been able to get out and do some geocaching. On the first truly warm day in April a number of us met to attempt to find caches that we have wanted to find for some time. Darby, Sam and Katie enjoyed the walk a great deal and we were successful in finding 11 of the 12 caches we were looking for. Troop member Dave has been caching for some time and was able to log his 400th find during our hike!

Parkour is something that troop members expressed an interest in trying this year. So many people and dogs are trying this sport and DSA is introducing a new badge based on these skills. We were able to get together to review the requirements for the badge and then take a short hike in the woods where we found great opportunities to build the dogs’ skills and confidence. Some dogs were more confident in climbing in, on, under and around various tree stumps, logs, benches, fences and other things in the park but each dog took it at their own pace. Shelby, Sassy, Sunny, Sam and Katie all gave it a try and seemed to have a lot of fun. Our newest 4-legged troop member, Mackenzie Hoyle (*pictured right*) came along with us, though at just 8 weeks old at the time she was much too young for Parkour or even much hiking. She got to ride in her wheeled backpack as we hiked.



Troop 217—MI (cont.)



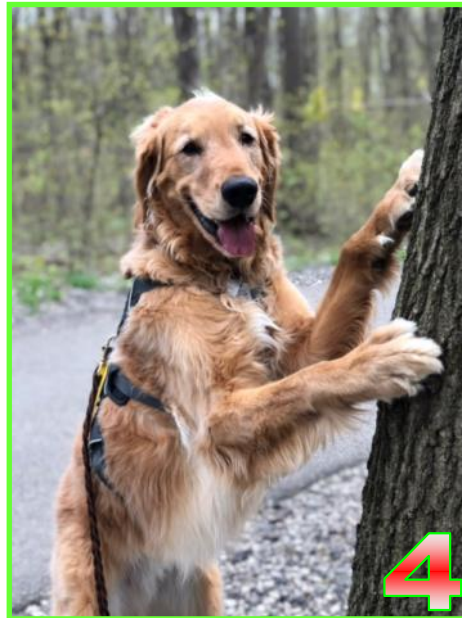
1) 14-year-old Shelby enjoyed giving Parkour a try.

2) Sassy and Mom Michelle Neu found a great downed tree to practice the "in" concept.

3) We used the same tree for "in" and "under".

4) Sunny practiced "2 feet on" on the trunk of a tree.

5) Katie found a park bench to practice her Parkour skills. Her brother Sam gave Parkour a try too, but he was camera shy.



In May troop member Martha Thierry and I attended the Leadership Retreat held at Dog Scout Camp with our dogs Maia, Riley, Katie and Mackenzie (Sam had to stay home and work). The dogs loved trying new things like Parkour, tracking and some new advanced agility drills and we enjoyed learning from others, doing crafts and eating great food.

Our troop members are looking forward to a fun filled summer packed with water sports, hiking, a picnic and summer camp!

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

We still had snow on the ground in March, but that doesn't stop us from geocaching. We found FOUR geocaches and lots of mud. The pups loved the mud. They had so much fun playing and jumping in the mud. They have never been prouder of themselves. They were all so very happy.



We also found the Copp Park Bear. Which turns out to be a tree stump that was carved to be a bear and was dressed for the St Patrick's season. So happy to have found a friendly bear in the woods.

At the end of March we had a Troop Birthday hike. Teagan DSA and Danica Joy DSA were celebrating their third birthdays. They got to hike with their friends, find geocaches, meet the Easter bunny and get lots of treats!! Wow what a great party!





LETTERBOX EGG HUNT



Wyatt DSA


 Danica Joy DSA & Zora DSA

TROOP 219
 ENJOYING THE DAY

Danica, Wyatt and Zora attended the annual letterbox Easter egg hunt at the beginning of April. This years theme was rock and roll. The hunt is Dartmouth style, which means there are no clues and we have to find the boxes using our letterboxing skills alone. We found almost all of the boxes this year.

Troop 219 help Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) with their Annual Haley Farm Clean Up this year. We have helped for more than five years. This year we picked up 58 bags of abandoned dog poop.

We stopped when we ran out of bags. GOSA organized a wonderful lunch for all of the helpers. There were many people who came to pick up trash this year. And boy scout troops who cleared the trails.

Dog Scout
 Troop 219
 The New
 England
 Explorers

Annual Haley Farm Spring
 Clean Up with Groton
 Open Space Association

April 28, 2018

Troop 219—CT (cont.)



Jump for Joy Letterbox Event

Dog Scout Troop 219 hosted their own letterbox event on National Frog Jumping Day!

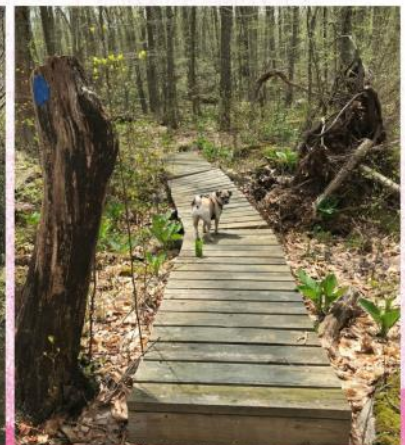
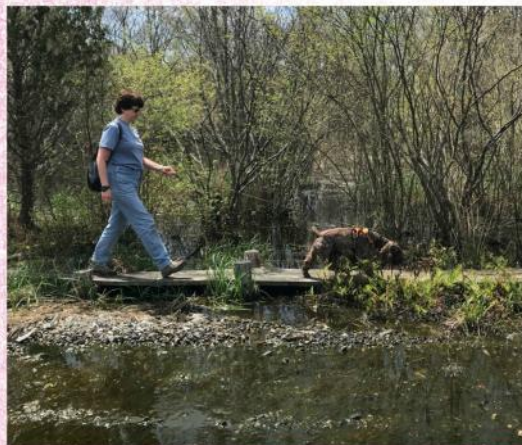
The beginning of May and Spring is finally here! The puggles were looking for a perfect place to plant their newest letterbox series "The Mythical Puggles". Lori found a great trail called Sine Swamp in Ledyard CT and showed us around. Wyatt was so happy to show us this trail that he loved. Danica and Zora loved it too. There are several small ponds for swimming and lots of stream crossings for the dogs to play in. And mud! They found lots of mud. We found some perfect places to plant our new boxes.

Troop 219 hosted a very froggy letterbox event in May to celebrate National Frog Jumping Day. We were very happy to have people attending from as far as Virginia. We planted several new letterboxes at Bluff Point. There are so many boxes and series at the Bluff right now and we were thrilled to help people on their searches. We created a hitchhiker hostel for the event and it is bursting with hitchhikers to travel to our next events.

Wyatt DSA was a wonderful host and loved to help people stamp into the event poster.

Danica Joy DSA was gracious hostess and enjoyed helping people stamp into the hitchhikers.

Thank you to every one who attended. The rain won't stop us!



Pine Swamp Letterboxing

Troop 229—CA

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

Troop 229 has been taking it easy, mostly going on hikes.



We cleaned our section of highway



and hosted a Basic Dog Obedience class.



We took iZAR & Lilura to a Sheep Herding for fun thing. They went to one a couple of years ago. I think iZAR has been thinking about it all this time, because this time he got right down to business and was calmer and I could control him with voice cues. Lilura was braver than last time and seemed to enjoy it too.



Troop 229—CA (cont.)

iZAR and I joined a FB group to walk 100 miles from 1st day of Spring to 1st day of Summer. I've been using this time to explore some new trails and we're strengthening iZAR's (and my) leg muscles by hiking up/down steep hills. His knees are doing great and he has been on unlimited activity for a while now. The farthest we've hiked in a day is 4.5 miles, but they were STEEP miles. 😊 We only have about 20 miles to go to hit the 100 mile goal!! I didn't think we'd be able to do it, so I'm very proud of us 😊



On Mother's Day iZAR helped me judge the Bridge obstacle at our local horse club's Trail Trials. He was the 'Gate Keeper' and kept eager horses from crossing the bridge before I was ready. They all like him and wouldn't step on him, so they stayed back.



Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts
Yahoo Discussion List:
pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

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(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com
(Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Peggy Mooney — mmmooney65@gmail.com

Troop Administration: Brenda Katz — dogs2katz@yahoo.com
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net

Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
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