

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

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

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
March 15th

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

Happy New Year!

The new year always leads me to look back on the previous year and reflect on what I've done with all that life has offered me. As singer Jimmy Buffett would say, "There are good days and bad days and going half mad days." Still, it's the good days, or even moments that I remember the most. Nearly all of the good moments involve my dogs. Yours probably do too.

In 2019 there were many things that I found joy in. Katie continues to do well as her vision gets worse and she surprises me everyday in the ways she adapts to a life that is continually darkening. Sam has found new happiness in our newly fenced backyard and still loves his therapy work. Mackenzie has learned new things by leaps and bounds and asks for "training time" everyday. I feel very blessed to share my life with these three amazing dogs.

I was able to achieve the individual goals I set for each dog in 2019, though maybe not in the way I originally envisioned. Dogs have a way of changing the picture sometimes. 😊 I reflect often on the past with an eye towards what I could have done differently in a given situation. But I don't allow room for regret in my life. Reflection yes, but no regret since regret doesn't change anything for the future.

I can't wait to see what 2020 brings! I'm working on a number of things for DSA to implement this year. Things like new badges, ways to increase our membership and new ways to support troop leaders are all in the works. Look for more information on all of these and more coming your way.

And I'm really excited about our 25th year of camp! If you haven't been to camp in Michigan or haven't attended in recent years now is the time to join us. We will have many fun things to add to our camp experience to celebrate our milestone year. We will also have special prizes throughout the year available to all members. Just keep your membership current to be eligible to win!

I hope you are as excited about 2020 as I am and I hope the year brings happiness and success to each of you and your dogs.

Sally Hoyle
President, DSA



MAKE PLANS FOR 2020 MI CAMP!

Happy New Year!

It's time to start thinking about your plans for the coming year. Won't it be great to go to Dog Scout Camp? If you're planning to go, have you placed your deposit? Have you registered online? Have you reserved your preferred lodging? This year's 6-day Michigan camps will fall on

June 15th - 20th
and
July 13th - 18th.



Don't forget that as a repeat camper, you get \$100.00 off the price, and if you pay your balance by April 1 (for June) or May 1 (for July) you get an additional savings of \$100.00!

We're looking at a few fun new badges this year. You'll hear more about it later.

I can't wait to re-connect with campers and catch up on what everyone has been doing since we last had an opportunity to chat. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones this year.

Help us **CELEBRATE!** our 25th year of camps!

You can register for the Michigan Dog Scout Camps at <http://dogscouts.org/base/camp-info/mi-dog-scout-camp/>.

Have a happy, healthy 2020, filled with love and friends,
Lonnie Olson
Michigan Dog Scout Camp Director

Happy 25th Anniversary!

by Sally Hoyle

Time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe but we will celebrate the *25th anniversary of Dog Scout Camp* in 2020. Twenty-five years is a major milestone and we want to celebrate all year long!

Here's how you can be a part of our celebration. On the 25th of each month we'll send an e-mail to one lucky member and award them with a special prize. So what do you have to do to get this prize? Each month we'll choose a different reason to surprise a member but you won't know what it is we are rewarding that month until we make the announcement. That puts everyone on a level playing field throughout the year and offers everyone the chance to win sometime in 2020. This isn't a contest. It's a way to celebrate and say thank you to our members. And our prizes are great!



Our first reward goes to **Laurie Miehms** and her dog Sirius from Manassas Park, Virginia! Laurie was the 25th person to join or renew membership online this year and received an e-mail from us on January 25th letting her know that she was the lucky recipient of a \$25 badge coupon. She can redeem this coupon in lieu of payment for any specialty badge anytime in the next year.

To be eligible to win prizes just keep your DSA membership current and stay active! You never know what we'll choose to reward but you can be certain that you'll hear about it on the 25th of each month. The possibilities for reward are endless! We might celebrate badges earned, fundraising for DSA, miles walked or DSA themed letter-boxes or geocaches. We can pick the winner by random draw of all who meet that month's requirements or we might do as we've done for January and reward the 25th to achieve or reach the goal. We might reward a single member or even an entire troop! We'll have special surprises and rewards during camp too!

Whatever we do, the prizes will always be great! So keep an eye on your inbox on the 25th of each month to find out if you are that month's big winner!



This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

By now everyone who ordered a 2020 DSA calendar should have received it in the mail. Martha Thierry and I really enjoyed putting it together and while we were very happy with the way it came out, we'd like to see many more of our members featured in 2021. To ensure that everyone is familiar with the calendar and understands how to submit photos for consideration, we will be featuring current months in each issue of the newsletter.



WHAT WILL YOUR DOG LEARN THIS YEAR?

Dog Scouts of America offers many opportunities at camps, with troops, on outings, and shares great information online and in our newsletter to reach your goals. Your dog is ready to go, are you? Check out dogscouts.org for ideas.



Mackenzie Leaver-Joyce



Flash, Slugger and Slyder Abdo-Wronski and their agility barn



January features photos of Mackenzie Hoyle in the snow. Mackenzie loves the snow and would be happy to spend an afternoon out in it if we would let her. We made her come inside after about 15 minutes and when she stood up she shed an inch thick blanket of snow.

Also featured are Flash, Slugger and Slyder Abdo-Wronski proudly standing in front of the shed where their agility equipment is stored. The dogs all get very excited when the door is opened because they know that means playtime! The design on this "Border Collie Barn" was painted by Martha Thierry.

February features troops from the San Francisco Bay Area, Troops 198 and 237. This area of the country has been quickly growing for DSA and Troop 198 celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2020. This group held its first ever camping weekend in 2015. Fourteen dogs attended that year with just 2 of them being Dog Scouts. In 2019 twenty-nine dogs attended and many of them are Dog Scouts. The area has a new Scoutmaster, Donna Johns, so we're sure to see many more new scouts from these troops in the future!

Do you have a photo that you think would be good for the 2021 calendar? Would you like to see your troop featured next year? Want to celebrate your dog's special day with a photo? Photos are accepted for submission throughout the year. Please send photos to me at sally.hoyle@yahoo.com. Clearly identify all dogs and people in photos that you send.

Hope to see YOUR DOG in the 2021 calendar!

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

It's Not That Hard . . .

... to record your requirements for video badge submissions!

by Lonnie Olson

I was fearful too, at first. But I was motivated by a badge submission contest about 10 years ago. I was forced to face my fears and tackle the task. I submitted several badges by video, and actually won one of the prizes for most video badges achieved.

Here's how:

First, I looked at the parameters for the badge. Many of the bullet points on the check off sheet are training steps to help you reach your badge requirements. The things that you actually must show to your evaluator are in **bold print**, to let you know that these steps are required for the badge.

If the requirements have anything requiring a distance, like "dog must go out X feet," "Platforms will be placed 25' apart." Or "dog must catch frisbee farther than 10 yards out," then you should mark the distance, and show the distance with a measuring tape on the ground in the beginning of the video. Once you have measured and marked the distance with a cone, flag, tape on the floor, or other landmark, you can get the tape measure out of the way, and begin filming your dog doing the badge requirements.

Much of what you record will be a wide shot of you and the dog performing something together. For this, an assistant would be handy. However, if you live alone, like I do, not having someone else to video your stuff should not stop you. There are several devices you can use to put your camcorder or phone in a strategic location to film your activity.

Of course a camcorder can be affixed to a tripod easily. Ever since smart phones, though, I have filmed most of my video with my phone camera. There are different ways you can prop up your smart phone to get good video. My smart phone has a finger "ring" that folds out in the back and can be used to prop up the phone. If you need a little lower of an angle, you can prop up the kick stand on a book or something. In the first 2 photos, I used a floating key fob.



They also make special phone videoing tripods. They can be adjusted for the angle you want. There is a spring mechanism that holds your phone. You would still need to hit the video button, and then walk on scene to get into the picture. I always set it up and notice what is the furthestmost thing in the shot to the right, left, up and down. Then, just be sure that you place yourself or your subject(s) within the space you're filming. You may have to move the camera phone further away to get everything you need for the shot. You may also have to place it on the very edge of something, so you are not filming the table or golf cart seat (on which your phone sits) in your shot.

Recording your requirements for video badge submission (cont.)

If the requirement is that you show your dog performing a behavior twice, then just film it another time, or keep the video rolling and perform the behavior a second time. If you end up with more video than you wanted, don't worry, you can always edit it within your phone's video editing feature, or you can download an app that will enable you to do it. To get the footage off your smart phone, you can e-mail it to yourself, or save it to one of many cloud storage services. You could also download your footage to your laptop via the USB cord, or USB/micro-USB (Android) or Lightning connector (iPhone).

If you have a video editing app, you can also splice several shorter videos together to submit as one recording. This is especially helpful if you have to show a number of behaviors to meet all badge requirements.

Many badges do not require that you record the whole thing. For any activity where it requires you to perform a sustained activity over a period of time, such as Kayaking, Travel Safety, Biking, and Hiking, you can film a brief segment of the total time spent on the road, trail or in the water. All we need is enough to show that:

- 👍 your dog really did make the trip with you
- 👍 proper safety measures were observed
- 👍 appropriate equipment was used
- 👍 the dog did not come unglued in the presence of distractions, such as wildlife
- 👍 the dog obeyed any commands/cues given
- 👍 any additional behavioral or equipment requirements for the badge.

Use your check-off sheet to make sure that you have filmed all of the required (**bolded**) elements of the badge.

Now that you have the video you need to show that you and your dog have met the requirements for the badge, what do you do with it? The days of needing to mail DVD's or flash drives are behind us, now that there is YouTube. Of course, you can still copy your video to a storage device and mail it in, but it's so much easier for you (and for the person who has to evaluate you) to just upload it to YouTube and send the link.

If you're not familiar with the process, it's very simple to get a You Tube account and start uploading videos. Instructions can be found on this link: <https://www.reference.com/article/create-youtube-account-691a61501db3f971?aq=youtube+create+new+account&qo=cdpArticles> YouTube is a VERY safe way to submit videos. Include the link with your badge form and any other required documentation when you send it in using the video submission process.

If anything is unclear, or the evaluator needs more information they will contact you with any questions.

We are really proud of the fact that, through the video submission process, people can submit videos and earn badges from wherever they live. If you don't belong to a troop, or don't have an assistant to help with videography, you can still earn lots of badges, long distance. If I can do this, ANYONE can. So get busy, and send us in your videos and badge forms! I'm looking forward to doing more of my own badge earning this way. I challenge you to do the same!

Merit Badge Submission Process Update

As of January 2020 we've updated the merit badge submission process:

Please use the following link to pay for badges online: [Badge Payment](#)

For all questions about merit badges or additional questions not answered below

Please contact Sally Hoyle, Badge Program Administrator at sally.hoyle@yahoo.com. Your question will be answered as soon as possible, recognizing that some questions require research or consultation with others before a complete response can be given.



PRIMARY SUBMISSION METHOD

When you are ready to submit a badge form, pay for the badge using the online Badge Payment form link above. Once you receive the automatic e-mailed payment receipt, forward that receipt e-mail with the following attachments to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com:

- a) badge forms signed in person by an evaluator, **OR**
- b) forms for badges done on the "honor" system, along with the required log(s) and/or pictures, **OR**
- c) badge forms to be signed by via a video evaluation submission (remember to include your video links in the e-mail, any supporting logs and/or pictures, and be sure you have demonstrated or answered all the checklist items that were in bold/underlined font).

All badge forms and logs may either be scanned as a PDF or a clear/legible picture (jpg or png) of them taken for attachment to your e-mail.

For badge forms NOT signed by an in-person evaluator (i.e. distance/video evaluation)

Send a video link to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com: You must send your badge form, any logs and/or pictures and a copy of your online credit card payment receipt at the same time you send your video link. Your e-mail submission will then be forwarded to the appropriate Distance Evaluator who will review the video and determine if the requirements for the badge have been met. The evaluator will contact you if additional video or information is needed and will explain the reason it is needed.

Once the evaluator determines that the badge requirements have been met she will sign the form and forward it for processing. You will receive an e-mail confirming your submission has been approved. Please do not contact any Distance Evaluator directly and request that they do an evaluation for you.

If it is absolutely impossible for you to submit these forms and links electronically, follow the directions for the Alternate Submission Method found on the next page . . .

ALTERNATE SUBMISSION METHOD

Please mail the required documentation and your payment (check or money order, or a printed copy of the online payment receipt) to



DSA Badge Program
c/o Sally Hoyle,
10080 John R St.,
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

Video submissions can be mailed on a CD or USB stick. Be sure to include an appropriately sized and stamped self-addressed envelope if you require your electronic media be returned.

The badge forms on the web site have been revised and include a link to this information. If you print a badge form that includes information different than what is stated above please ignore what is printed on the form and follow the process as described.

Once you earn the Dog Scout Title on your dog, you are entitled to work toward a wide variety of specialty Merit Badges. From the Dog Scout badges right through all the merit badges, you will find everything you need on the [Merit Badges](#) section of the webpage – requirements, badge forms, and training tips and guides.

Some badges require that you keep a log, some are done on the “honor” system, and most can be earned by video submission if there is not a qualified Evaluator near you. Most of all... you and your dog will have tons of FUN learning and earning!

Badges are sorted by category to make them easier to locate. There are a few badges that “fit” more than one category, and you may see one listed in various places. It is the same badge – just included in multiple categories.

Please remember... although you MAY work on criteria for any badges you wish at any time, you will NOT be able to actually receive official recognition for those badges until after you have successfully earned the Dog Scout Title on your dog.

For questions about becoming an Badge Evaluator

Please direct questions about becoming an evaluator for any badge to Chris Kloski at chrisbill1966@gmail.com. Chris will go over the criteria for becoming a badge evaluator and will advise you on the process.

For questions about becoming a Distance Evaluator

Please contact Sally Hoyle at sally.hoyle@yahoo.com if you are interested in becoming a Distance Evaluator for badges you are already qualified to evaluate.

Badges, Badges, Badges!

Now that you know how easy it is to video the badge requirements, what badge(s) do you want to earn this year?

Agility

[60 Weave Pole Challenge](#)
[Agility 1](#)
[Agility 2](#)
[Agility Partners](#)
[Agilure](#)
[Obstacles 1](#)
[Obstacles 2](#)
[Obstacles 3](#)
[Parkour 1](#)
[Puissance](#)
[Triathadog](#)

Community Service

[Clean-Up America 1](#)
[- Cans](#)
[Clean-Up America 2](#)
[- Poop](#)
[Community Service 1](#)
[Community Service 2](#)
[Community Service 3](#)
[DSA Service](#)
[Fundraise 1](#)
[- Handles/Baskets](#)
[Fundraise 2 - Put/Take](#)
[Humane Education](#)
[Therapy Dog 1](#)
[Therapy Dog 2](#)
[- Hospital](#)
[Therapy Dog 3](#)
[- Reading](#)

Dog Scout

[Dog Scout](#)
[Honor Scout](#)
[Jr Dog Scout](#)
[Pup Scout](#)

Existing Sports

[Barn Hunt](#)
[Earthdog](#)
[\(Go-to-Ground\)](#)
[Flyball](#)
[Frisbee - Throw/Catch](#)
[Frisbee - Freestyle](#)
[Herding](#)
[Hunt Retriever](#)
[Lure Coursing](#)
[Rally FrEe Advanced](#)
[Rally FrEe](#)
[Intermediate](#)
[Rally FrEe Novice](#)
[Steeplechase](#)
[Treibball 1](#)
[Treibball 2](#)
[Treibball Beginner 1](#)
[Treibball Beginner 2](#)
[Treibball Beginner 3](#)

Nose Work

[Messenger Dog](#)
[SAR Agility 1](#)
[SAR Agility 2](#)
[SAR Agility](#)
[- Ladders & Tunnels](#)
[SAR Agility](#)
[- Levels & Planks](#)
[SAR - Directional](#)
[Control 1](#)
[SAR - Directional](#)
[Control 2](#)
[SAR - Wilderness](#)
[Scent Discrimination](#)
[Scent Hurdle](#)
[Tracking 1](#)

Obedience

[Drill Team](#)
[Freestyle - Advanced](#)
[Freestyle - Beginner](#)
[Freestyle](#)
[- Intermediate](#)
[IMPROV](#)
[Manners](#)
[Naked Dog Obedience](#)
[Rally 1](#)
[Rally 2](#)
[Retrieve](#)
[Tricks](#)

Miscellaneous/Other

[All Dog Band](#)
[Art of Shaping \(Painting\)](#)
[Canine Actor](#)
[Canine CPR](#)
[Canine 1st Aid](#)
[Carriage Dog](#)
[Copy Cat](#)
[Disaster Preparedness](#)
[Dog Care](#)
[Dog Massage](#)
[DOGa Exercise](#)
[K-9 Fitness](#)
[Pho-DOG-raphy](#)
[Sign Language](#)
[Temperament Test](#)
[Travel Safety](#)
[K9 Nutrition](#)

Pulling

[Carting](#)
[Skiing/Scootering](#)
[Sledding](#)
[Weight Pull](#)

Trails/Outdoors

[Backpacking](#)
[Biking](#)
[Canicross](#)
[Geocaching 1](#)
[Geocaching 2](#)
[Geocaching 3](#)
[Hiking](#)
[Letterboxing 1](#)
[Letterboxing 2](#)
[Letterboxing 3](#)
[Overnight Camping](#)

Water

[Beach Buddy](#)
[Boating Safety](#)
[Canoeing](#)
[Dock Diving](#)
[Kayaking](#)
[Puppy Paddler](#)
[Water Racing](#)
[Water Rescue 1](#)
[Water Rescue 2](#)
[Water Retrieve](#)

Be sure to check out the badge requirements by clicking on any of the above links, learning what's involved, what the video requirements are if you don't have a Badge Evaluator near you, and start planning the steps you need to take to achieve your goals.

Be sure to follow the updated merit badge submission process found on pages 8-9.

We're looking forward to adding new badges to this list in 2020!!

Oh Poop! 🐞 Clean Up America 2

By Shirley Conley

Part of the Dog Scouts of America vision is for dogs to be a welcome part of the community, however one of the biggest obstacles to this is unscooped dog poop! To lead by example and to go above and beyond as responsible dog-owning citizens, we'd like to encourage all members to work on the [Clean Up America 2](#) community service merit badge this year. What's required?

Dog and handler, have found, picked up and properly disposed of at least 50 separate piles of dog excrement left behind by irresponsible dog owners in public places. The dog helped by finding the piles, packing out bagged piles in his or her backpack, and/or pulling a collection cart or wagon.

A pile can only count if:

- It was abandoned by the owner.
- It was left in an area where no one else would clean it up (such as a doggie waste clean up service.)
- It was found in a public place (your own yard or friend's yard doesn't count.)
- It was dog poop, not a pile left by geese, coyote or any other wild animal.



Be sure to take photos of bagged waste as your proof and e-mail them along with the [log sheet](#), [form](#) and a copy of the [online badge payment](#) e-mailed receipt to dsavideoeval@gmail.com.

Worried about the additional plastic waste going into the landfill? Check out [biodegradable poop bags](#)!

aPaws International Pooper Scooper Week April 1-7

The [Association of Professional Animal Waste Specialists](#) (aPaws), has established the first 7 days of April as a time to educate dog owners on the importance of scooping the poop—both in their own yards and certainly in public places. This would be a great week to schedule a troop community service activity by hitting those dog-frequented public locations and picking up piles! Or perhaps make April 7th the deadline to reach your +50-pile goal and submit your paperwork.

If you've already earned the Clean Up America 2 badge, check out the requirements for the [Community Service](#) badges and/or take the lead on your troop's Clean Up America activity.

You might also check with your local government stormwater management department to see if they have a Clean Water or Scoop the Poop program your troop can promote (it's also an opportunity to get the word out to local residents about your troop) or even a free pet waste station installation program such as the one in [James City County, VA](#).

Dog Waste and Your Health

Source: <https://apaws.org/health/details.aspx?id=1013>

The American Pet Association estimates that this country's seventy-one million pet dogs produce over 4.4 billion pounds of waste per year. That's enough to cover 900 football fields with 12 inches of dog waste!

Dog feces are more than just a nuisance – pet waste can pose a serious health hazard. Why?....

A number of common parasites, including round worm, are transmitted via dog feces. When infected dog droppings are left on the ground the eggs of the roundworms and other parasites can linger in the soil for years. As a result, anyone who comes in contact with the soil also comes in contact with the infected eggs.

Children run the greatest risk of infection because they're prone to play in the dirt at the park or playground and then put their hands in their mouths or rub their eyes with their hands. But even a group of teens or adults playing Frisbee or touch football in an open area could be in danger. Parasitic infections can make humans extremely sick, and for pregnant women - can pose a serious harm to their unborn child.

How much do you know about picking up your No. 1 furry friend's No. 2? See if you can spot the facts from the fiction.

Source: <https://www.puppyup.org/its-national-scoop-the-poop-week/>

1. My dog's poops are actually good for the environment because they're a natural fertilizer. I think I'll leave them right where they are, thank you very much.

FALSE. Besides being a nuisance to see and smell (do you really want doggie land mines decorating your yard?), dog waste can pose a health risk if left on the ground. Contrary to what some people might think, dog waste is not a type of fertilizer, and is actually considered by the Environmental Protection Agency to be a "nonpoint source pollutant," placing it in the same category as herbicides, insecticides and toxic chemicals.

Dog feces can carry a host of disease and worms — including heartworms, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvovirus, giardia, salmonella, and even E. coli. In order for feces from a carnivorous animal to be used as an effective fertilizer, it has to be fully composted with other materials such as egg shells and grass clippings and allowed to break down over time.

Every dog poops. And every day, pet parents go through the task of cleaning up and disposing of feces. But do you know how to dispose of dog poop properly? Whether you scoop it with a shovel or pick it up with a poop bag, there are a few things that pet parents need to know about the daily ritual. This is why it's imperative to clean it up after Fido does his duty.

2. If I leave the poop on the ground long enough, eventually the rain will wash it away/it will disintegrate, and it won't be a problem anymore. Out of sight, out of mind, right?

FALSE. When it rains, dog waste left on the ground washes into storm drains and can contribute harmful bacteria to our waterways, including local lakes, streams and beaches. According to www.doodycalls.com, two or three days' worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs can contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay and all watershed areas within 20 miles to swimming and shell fishing.

3. You can flush dog poop down the toilet.

TRUE. In fact, flushing your dog's poop down the toilet is one of the best ways to dispose of it, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. If your home is connected to the municipal sewage system, the poop will be sent to a wastewater treatment plant and eliminated of bacteria during the sanitation process.

Flushing dog poop down the toilet – *without a bag, only the waste* – is perhaps the best disposal method, says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Resources Defense Council. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into storm drains, and eventually into local waterbodies.

But **cat feces should never be flushed**, as it may contain *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite that can infect people and animals. Municipal water treatment systems do not always kill this parasite.

4. You can flush bagged dog poop down the toilet.

FALSE. Unless you're itching to make an appointment with a plumber, do not flush dog poop that has been placed in a bag down your toilet. Doing so can clog your plumbing and mess up sewer systems.

[*\[Click here for further information about bags that claim to be biodegradable, compostable and/or flushable \(Editor\)\]*](#)

5. Dog waste can be harmful to your health.

TRUE. Dog doo-doo can carry a crap-load (excuse the pun) of creepy crawlies, including heartworms, hookworms, roundworms and tapeworms. It can also contain diseases galore, including parvovirus, giardia, salmonella and E. coli. Ew! You don't want those disease-bombs sitting around your home or public walkways, so pick up after your dog, and be sure to wash your hands after doing so, or as soon as you can.

6. So what's the worst that can happen if I don't clean up my dog's poop? It's not like I can get a ticket or something.

FALSE. In some cities and counties, failure to clean up dog poop in public areas is a public offense, and can come with citations and fines.



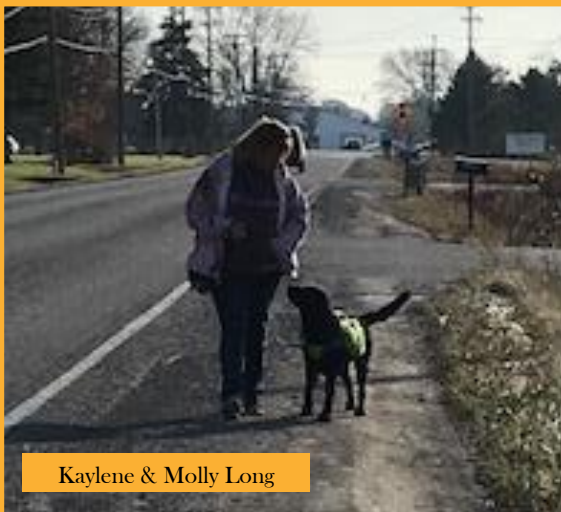
Long story short: Scoop up that poop! Your neighbors (and the environment) will thank you.



Troop 150



Ruby Damm



Kaylene & Molly Long



Kismet, Caper & Kozi Olson



Ohio members: Melissa with Dash,
Lisa with Rocco &
Barbie, Paul & River with Lilly & Eddy



Fay & Goldy Reid & Jax



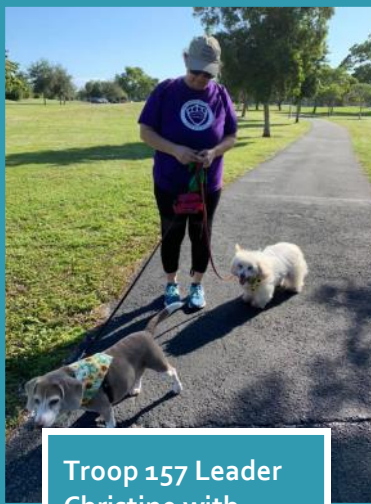
Gina & Paisley Battley



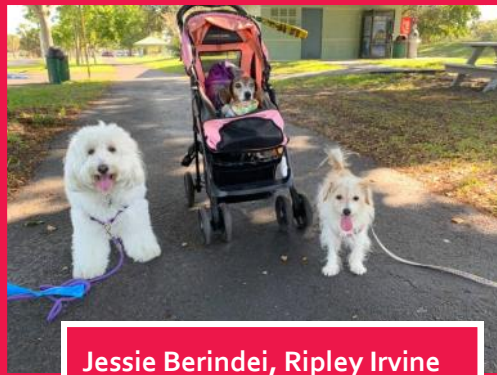
Pam & Malu Barnum



Troop 183



Troop 157 Leader
Christine with
Clover and Grace



Jessie Berindei, Ripley Irvine
& Penny Hain



Phyllis with Fiona



Tesesa with Ripley,
Linda with Jessie
and Penny Hain



Maria with Eli and Daisy



Maria with Bluetide Jolie
in Costa Rica



Katie Hoyle

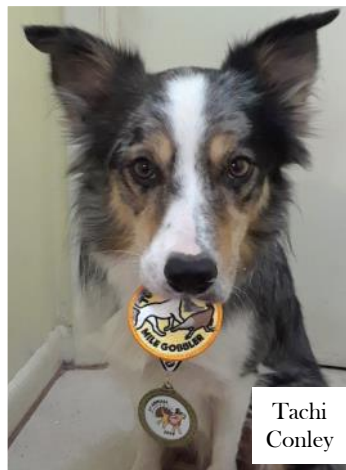
Katie enjoyed helping to pack up all the Turkey Trot medallions and Mile Gobbler patches for mailing. She tried on a bundle of medallions for this photo and decided that 25 of them weren't too heavy for her to carry!



Marvin Beer



Troop 157 (Liz & Jessie, Maria & Jolie, Teresa & Ripley, Christine & Clover & Grace, Linda & Jessie, Shari & Penny)



Tachi Conley



Lizzie Porto



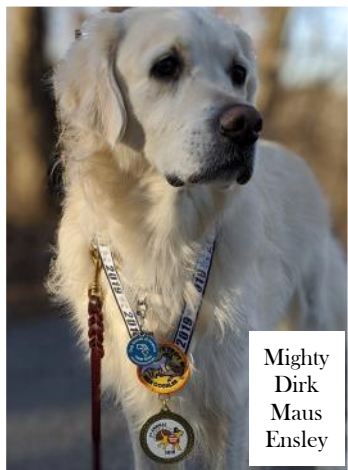
Annie Heideman



Jurnee Mimms



Mona Cherene



Mighty
Dirk
Maus
Ensley



Bouen
Baker



Danica Dean



Nim and Beth



Arrow Sandstede

Thanks

Thank you for participating in the
5th Annual Sparky's Turkey Trot.

We raised an amazing \$2,660
this year! That's 1K more
than last year!

An outstanding 86 participants
registered this year!
That's 20 more than last year.

Thanks

Cheryl Ashford
Robert Ashford
Debbie Baker
Sandie Barham
Pam Barnum
Gina Battley
Amy Beer
Linda Berindei
Jessica Bock
Jasper Callahan
Maureen Callahan
Liz Cherene
Beth Conley
Shirley Conley
Amy Courson
Diane Cranston
Stacey Damm
Kelly Dean
Barbie Demmy-
Scheidler
R. Demmy-Stover
Elizabeth / Jessie
Diaz
Cher DiModica
Megan Fitzgerald
MarSue Freeman
Christine Geschwill
Shari Hain
Jeanette Heideman

Lisa Hodge
Bette Holden
Sally Hoyle
Teresa Irvine
Kristie Iwamoto
Diane Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Carrie Jones
Anita Kaiser
Laurie Keel
Kristen Keeling
Pat Keeling
Christy King
Robert King
Leah Lane
Nita Lanter
K Long
Melissa Matteson
Kim McMunn
Lori Miller
Nadene Mills
Cyndi Mimms
Sondra Moore
Phyliss Myers
Cheryl Nava
C. Odal
Marcia Odal
Lonnie Olson
Tammy Onufreiczuk

Christine Porter
Amy Porto
Bradley Powell
Lennie Randall
Cindy Ratliff
Mart Ratliff
Becky Roberts
Ruth Robinson
Kristin Sandstede
Paul Scheidler
Ruth Sheller
Claudette Smith
Lisa Stewart
Cynthia Stone
Farren Stone
Nancy Strack
Nicola Street
Marion Teichman
Martha Thierry
Kris Thomas
Kathy Tucker
Maria E Volio
Lori White
Kevin Wiles
Rachel Wiles
Barrie Lynn Wood
Lisa Zavala

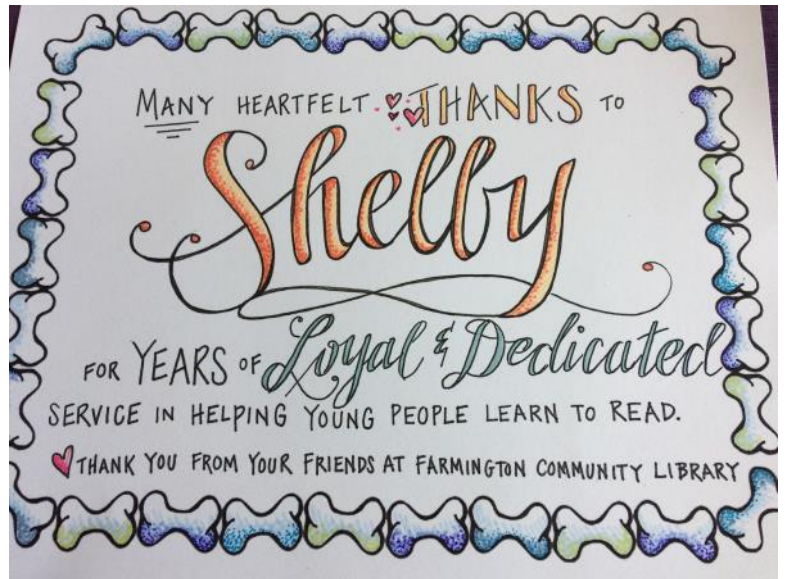
Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Shelby Benson's Retirement

By Julie Benson ~ Troop 217
December 21, 2019

Over the past 8 years, Shelby & I have met so many wonderful people through her therapy work.

From the start, I decided to focus our time helping kids, as I knew this is what Shelby loved!! She was a rock star from day 1!! Somehow she just knew when she was working and would prance into the libraries and our Sandcastle visits like she owned the place ;) Always attentive to her readers and always right there when a child needed her comfort or fur to cry into during our Sandcastle days. Her array of tricks proved beneficial, helping to warm up kids that maybe weren't too sure about the experience or who were afraid of dogs.



75 hours of visits with the Henry Ford Sandcastles/Camp Erin organization
197 hours of visits with the Farmington Hills Library
115 hours of visits with the West Bloomfield Library

387 hours over the past 8 years, that's a lot in dog years and for one little 9 pound Shih Tzu. If we touched just one life in a positive way it was worth every single second. Because of Shelby's loss of hearing, we had to retire from our Sandcastle visits a few years back and now that she is completely deaf I know it's time to call it quits. I will GREATLY miss our visits and miss our friends we've made along the way but I know it's time - almost 16 1/2 years old, it's time Shelby enjoyed her retirement. She's earned it!! :)



Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trailblazers

Fay Reid—Troop Leader



At the troop's January meeting - Fay & Goldy shared what they learned and did at the Texas mini camp, including clicker mechanics, patterns and games.



Jean Thompson's Sheila received her Therapy Dog, Freestyle and Backpacking merit badges

and her Jenny Rose received her Therapy Dog and Freestyle merit badges

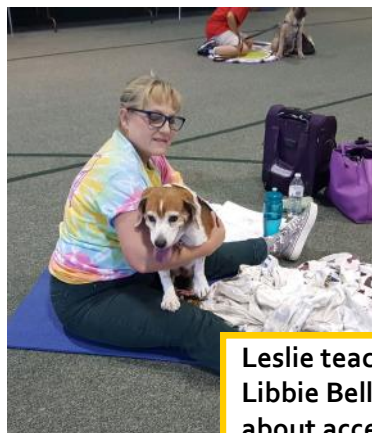


Troop 119—TX

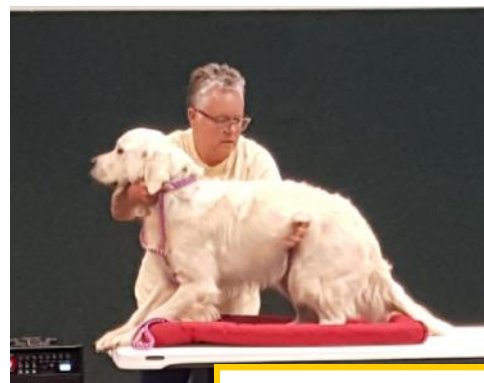
Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a very fun, busy and exciting fall!

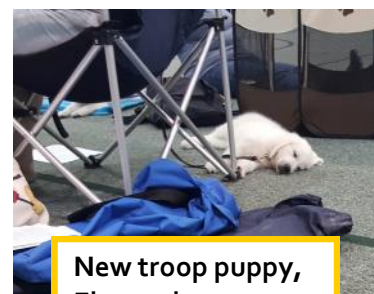
In September, Gina Smith & Diva came all the way from East Texas to teach us all about canine massage. Diva was a great demo dog (we think she's done this before!) and then all the members learned the various techniques for their dogs. The dogs learned that massage is a wonderful thing and everyone went home happy and relaxed. Many completed the requirements for the canine massage merit badge and many others finished up their requirements at mini-camp.



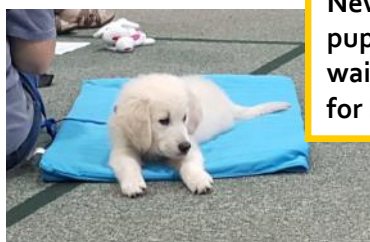
Leslie teaches Libbie Belle about accepting massage



Gina & Diva demo



New troop puppy, Elton, gives out

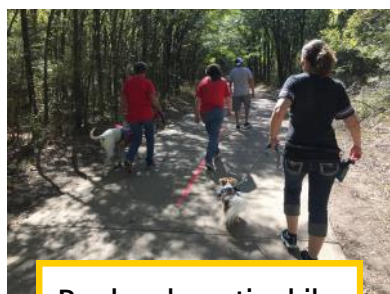


New troop puppy, Finn, waits patiently for his turn



Victoria helps Keenan on the massage table

In October, we enjoyed an afternoon back in the park. The dogs enjoyed a hike through the park trails then settled in to learn an instrument for the All Dog Band badge. The dogs all did well with practice and promised Band Leader, Becky, that they would continue to practice at home.



Pre-band practice hike



Bailey & Kim discuss keyboard fundamentals

Casper & Max learning dueling banjos



Gizmo overshoots his keys



Finn learning about All Dog Band

Oakley & Faith find middle C



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

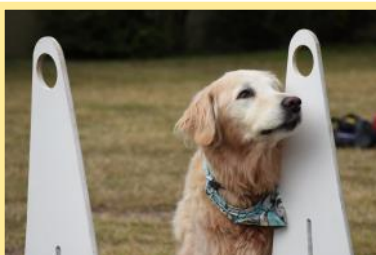
November is the most exciting month of all for Troop 119 every year! We have our awesome annual Texas Mini-Camp then get to give back to the community with our Meals On Wheels for Pets community service project. This year was our 16th annual mini-camp and we swear it gets better every year. We had a little rain and cold to contend with, but just on the first day and we still didn't let it dampen our spirits. We had some exciting badge offerings this year such as Messenger Dog, Scent Hurdle Racing, Copy Cat and Parkour and we had some great class offerings like Secondary Reinforcers, Behavior Chains, Training with Patterns and Canine Enrichment. There was a lot of fun, learning and bonding with our dogs going on! The camp auction raised an all time high of over \$7,000 for the programs of Dog Scouts of America.



Cheryl & Waffle practice bandaging for First Aid



Donna & Bridgette backpacking



Elvis listens intently to the scent hurdle racing



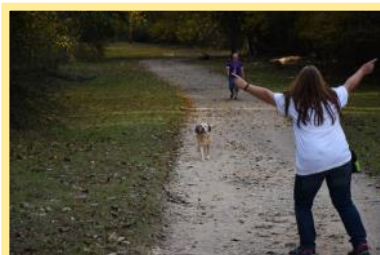
Fergus & Melissa have fun during art class



Harper learned 2 feet up



Nita & Sage on the camp trails



Rouen practices for Messenger Dog with mom,



Sebastian & Dennis practice parkour behaviors

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

New Dog Scouts at this year's camp were

Fergus Alpha,



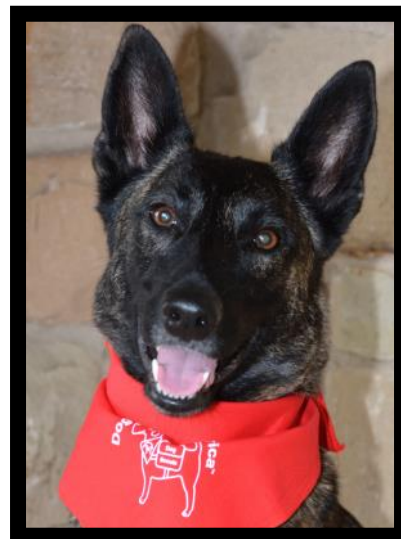
Gypsie Rodriguez,



Harry Donovan



& Nina Donovan.



Congratulations!

We are always so excited to see the growth of the dogs humans during camp and can't wait until the next year!

and their

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

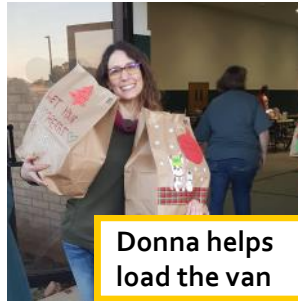
Not long after mini-camp wraps up every year we have our largest community service project of the year, Meals On Wheels for Pets. We have done this project annually for 16 years and the clients of Meals On Wheels love it! This year we collected over 2,300 lbs of pet food, about 700 dog toys, 250 poop bag rolls, 125 food bowls, 125 holiday bandanas, 100s and 100s of treats and dog food samples, plus dog beds, collars, leashes, etc. We put together gift bags for the 125 Meals On Wheels clients with dogs and troop member, Nita Lanter & her family put together gift bags for 74 client cats as well! Troop member, Faith Whatley, took to social media and received a flood of donations that filled her guest room. Faith's Dog Scout, Oakley, proudly served as the troop dog representative and was chief bag inspector. We loaded up a Meals On Wheels van full of dog food then another van with all the doggie gift bags. It was another hugely successful year and the clients of MOW were so very appreciative.



Packaging treats



Becky sorts toys



Donna helps load the van



filling up the goody bags



Oakley declares the van is full!



Nita sorts donations



Over 2,300 lbs in dog food collected



Bagging day crew with Oakley, DSA, troop dog rep

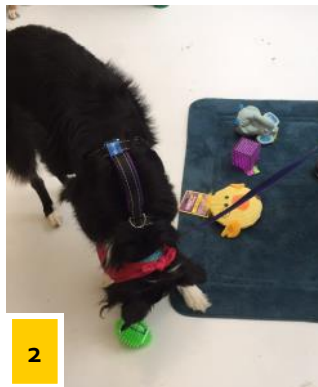
Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley

On December 15th, in spite of the imminent snow, a few hardy Dog Scouts met for our monthly meeting. Mason's mom, Joyce, brought some bags of Beggin Strips that were donated by Purina and Barney's mom, Fran, brought some homemade liver treats. All of the dogs were glad to sample them. There were some interactive toys, such as wobble boards and Nina Ottoson puzzles, for everyone to try. A couple of members worked on some of the dog scout skills that they still needed to pass. And everyone participated in a couple of rousing games of "Simon Says". Of course, the dogs did much better than their people! Even though we were a small group this month, everyone had a good time.



1



2



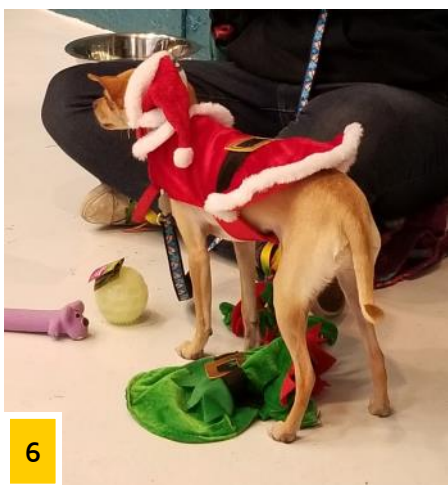
3



4



5



6



7

- 1 - Lou is looking smart
- 2 - Roxie is having a hard time choosing a prize
- 3 - Mason thinks he earned a treat
- 4 - Mason, Roxie, Tribble, Barney and Lou
- 5 - Lou knows he can get that treat!
- 6 - Tribble is looking for Santa
- 7 - Wonder what Barney is thinking

Troop 150—AR

Submitted by Stephanie Ensley

Dog Scouts Lucas, Labrador Retriever (with Teresa) and Mighty Dirk Maus, Golden Retriever (with Stephanie) took a 2.2 mile hike for the Turkey Trot. We hiked in the Ozark National Forest to Glory Hole Falls.

Time at the falls for a little snack break, then we packed out our own stuff, plus bottles and dog poop left behind by others! We visited with some boys on the trail who were very excited about dogs being Scouts just like they are!



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine



Turkey Trot

This year we had another great turn out of troop member's register and participate in the 5K DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot, including a friend who is interested in joining the troop. Like last year we scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other location like Costa Rica. It couldn't have been a more perfect day to get out with our pups while enjoying conversations with our fellow troop members. Everyone who participated had a great time and enjoyed supporting an event sponsored by the Dog Scouts of America.



Temperament Testing Training

Thanks to one of our Troop members and trainer Monica Pajuelo who scheduled an event to provide insight into the AKC Temperament Testing. The Temperament Test is a series of exercises the dog goes through (social, equipment, visual, auditory etc.) and scored based on their reaction. Monica also thought with the equipment we would be able to build our dogs confidence. So we did a little bit of both just to let the our pups practice with the various scenarios. For more information check out this AKC website <https://www.akc.org/akctemptest/clubresources/>

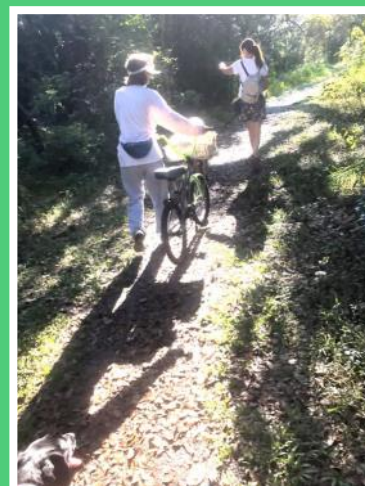
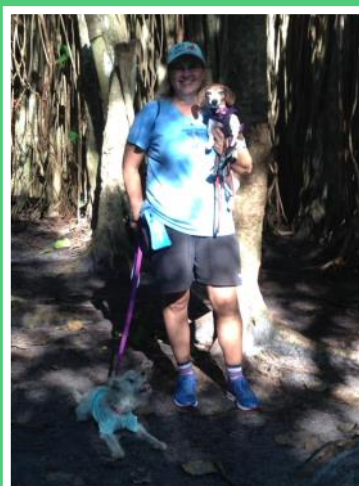


Troop 157—FL (cont.)



New Years Eve Event

To help wear out pups before the New Year Eve craziness, which usually involves neighbors shooting off fireworks and otherwise. Our troop member Dawn Hanna scheduled an impromptu event that day at one of the local parks. It turned out we had great participation and our pups were worn out by the end. Those who were not able to attend took there pups to local places like Bass Pro Shop.



Plans for this year

Our troop is very excited about what 2020 will bring and what new training opportunities will present themselves. We appreciate getting together and helping/supporting one another on learning new things and sharing ideas to continue to learn. We will be having a 2020 planning meeting to come up with events and training exercises to find new ways to have fun with our furbabies.



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Dogs with Donations



Troop #177 gathered donation items for Southside Animal Rescue in Indianapolis. The donations were much appreciated!

At our December meeting the dogs enjoyed a gift exchange and photos.



Emily and Lucy



Griffin and Hallie



Sharon and Zena



Casey and Penny

Hallie Bell Ringing



Robyn volunteered for multiple shifts of Salvation Army Bellringing. It's fun when donors say they remember us from last year, or when friends stop by to see us! In addition, Hallie earned her Barn Hunt badge. She loves the search!

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

NOVEMBER

On the 24th we walked our annual Parkour Hike, this year combining it with DSA's Turkey Trot fundraiser. We were thrilled to be surprised by one of our founding members, Karyn, and husband Carl, joining us. We hope to see a little more of them while they're here for the Winter.



We love Gemini Springs for all the shade it provides, although some of our pictures didn't turn out great because of the shadows that creates. Perfect weather, great friends, and polite dogs.

Our Aussie girl, Annie, was able to join us thanks to mom, Jeanette pulling out the stroller. Due to a couple of hip surgeries, Annie's walks are limited, but she was able to enjoy the fresh air and check in with her friends and she walked the grassy section with us where we took some photos of the dogs at one of the benches.



DECEMBER

Congratulations to our wonderful volunteers, Steve and Marilyn with Alli, Marsha with Betsie, Jeanette with Annie, Amy with Marvin and Cyndi with Jurnie.

Between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., on Saturday December 3rd, our dogs encouraged the Publix at Winter Park Village employees and patrons to donate over \$530 to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive.

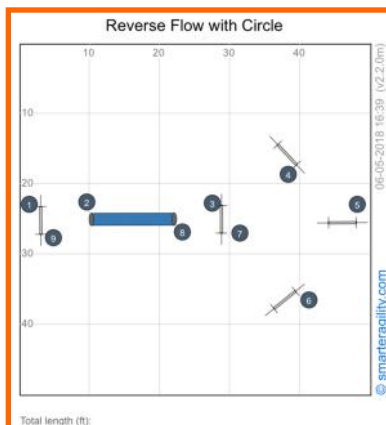


Troop 183—FL (cont.)

JANUARY

On the 5th, we worked on agility, focusing on the handling for the 4-leaf Clover and Reverse Flow with Circle courses from the Agility Partners badge. The great thing about this badge is that dogs at all levels can start working on the courses.

For example, while novice handlers may not be stationary in the middle of the clover, they are still teaching the shoulder pull, rear and/or blind crosses. On the Reverse Flow course, we added a table before the first jump to give our dogs a more definite starting and finishing point. Both of the courses provided more advanced handlers the opportunity to see where their cues were late, which caused the dog to spin before or after an obstacle or swing wide in search of the next obstacle or get distracted by another dog. We also had access to a second agility field and participants were encouraged to work on a straight line/distance challenge, weave poles and some contact equipment while they waited their turn.



We had the pleasure of spending some time with Lonnie and Sally while they were in Florida, even though Shirley provided her troop members with the wrong restaurant address! Luckily it was only 15 minutes away from where we were supposed to meet, so we finally sat down at the same restaurant and had an enjoyable dinner together.



Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop

We have lots of fun in the planning stages for this year and some changes to the meeting format.

On tap for 2020 are some Troop Trips to Dog Mountain in VT, a nice hike out to the beach to see the annual Seal migration, a Parkour workshop in MA, Barn Hunt Trials, Dock Diving Events, and an Overnight Camp Trip.



Upcoming workshops include the DSA Badge, Obstacle badges, Pet First Aid and CPR, Backpacking (selecting a backpack and what to pack for your badge), letterboxing, Tricks, and Therapy Dog.

Also coming up on April 11th is our Pet Easter Eggstravaganza! (formerly the Pet Easter Bonnet Contest and Parade) in Mystic Village.

Troop 198—CA (together with Troops 233 and 237)

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

On November 19th Troop 198 had their monthly meeting. After talking business, we took the opportunity for some “Turkey Shots”.

Here Kozmo with a couple of Thanksgiving Day friends.



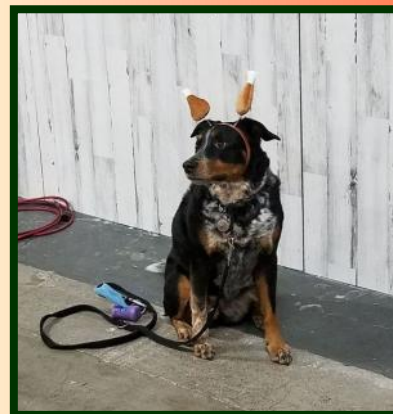
Wyatt & Duncan chose Turkey Leg Head Bands.



Odin chose Turkey Legs, Kate went with a Pilgrim Turkey and Cora chose the always popular Turkey Head.



New comer Susie Q went with the classic Turkey Drum Stick look.



Patty, Dave, Sprocket & Crystal opted not to do any “Turkey Shots” after the meeting.



Donna and Lennie carried our troop banner at the front of the group.

On Dec 7th, Troop 237 got together at Syma’s Mexican Grill to socialize and make plans for 2020. Troop 198 gathered to March in the annual Morgan Hill Lighted Parade.



Getting ready in the staging area is Carlotta with Crystal and Bailey with the cart, Lennie with Sadie wearing a Santa Hat and beard and Anna with Roxy the German Shepherd.



Carlotta coordinated the event and her dogs, Crystal and Bailey were dressed as snowmen, Bailey skillfully pulled a decorated holiday cart.



Blake and her dogs, Yeti and Tribble marched in the parade again this year showing off their holiday style and spirit!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Kate walked Duncan who pulled a decorated holiday wagon with a Dog Scout sign and Leah dressed in a St. Bernard suit, walked Wyatt who pulled a decorated Santa Sleigh with a Dog Scout sign plus 16-year-old Flash who rode in the Santa Sleigh.



Here is 16-year-old Flash who rode in the sleigh, he is a Pyrenean Shepherd and is fur baby of Cecelia Sternzon one of the trainers at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley, we were proud to have Flash join us in the parade.

On Dec 17th Troop 198 had their annual Howl-D-Day party at Sports Basement in Campbell. We had food, treats, games and prizes and the public shopping in the store that night enjoyed seeing what a fun time all the dogs were having and see some of the badges that can be earned as a Dog Scout.



Nicole calls Zen thru the tunnel to get a treat with Judy & Bocuse and Lennie & Sadie sitting in the background waiting their turn to show off their tunnel skills.

Here are Bob and Debee wrangling retrievers Wyatt, Dayton, Duncan, Maxwell and Memphis for a picture.



Scott & Carlotta's dogs, Bailey and Crystal won the raffle prize of toys and treats in a doggie stocking.



Sharon works with Sadie and Scout while Sondra and Kozmo look on.

Patty works with Crystal as Dave and Donna watch, Sprocket is under the table working on getting the treat out of the puzzle toy.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On December 29th some of our members attended the Pucks & Paws Barracuda Hockey Game at the SAP Stadium.



Here is Sprocket & Crystal in their seats asking if they can have popcorn while they watch the game.

Crystal and Sprocket LOVE going to the Hockey games, such fun cheering for the Barracudas!



On Jan 5th we had our Santana Row Mall Walk About Training.



Going in a circle from left to right we have Angela with Ava, Duncan & Wyatt solo, Jan with Buddy, Jackie with Asia, Sharon with Scout and Sadie, Denise with Kokoro, Lennie with Sadie and Janet with Stretch the Corgi.

We started out with Donna our troop leader explaining what we were going to practice that day and that Jackie and Asia would be taking part of their Dog Scout Test during the training.



Starting from front to back we have Angela with Ava, Duncan & Wyatt solo, Jan with Buddy and Jackie and Asia.



Here is a shot of Jackie taking a picture of Asia before they do the Sit part of the Dog Scout test. On the right sitting down listening to Donna talk about the Dog Scout Test is Angela with Denise and Kokoro.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

After Jackie and Asia did their Dog Scout Sit testing, some of the group showed off their advanced sitting and staying skills.



Here is Sharon with Sadie showing how Scout can jump up and do a stay up high on a pillar.



Not to be outdone, Lennie shows how Sadie can "Sit Pretty" up high on a pillar.



Angela shows how Ava has learned to climb and stay on a fire hydrant on command, very cool!

During the mall walk training, Jackie and Asia passed the sit, down and recall parts of the Dog Scout test administered by Scout Master Donna and then Jackie brought out puppy Elton to practice his manners as we relaxed enjoying the sunshine on a beautiful January afternoon and making plans for our troop in 2020.

Happy New Year 2020 Dog Scouts!



Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

The Motor City K9 enjoyed participating in the activities that have become traditions for the troop during the holiday season. We walked in the Garden City Santaland Parade and the South Lyon Cool Yule Parade. We were thrilled to have good weather for the parades especially since last year both parades were very wet events. Katie pulled her cart in the Garden City parade but enjoyed taking a side position in South Lyon where she could get close to the crowd. Dogs participating in the parades were Darby Jones, Sky Cranston, Marley and Mattie Ashburn, Leah Siporin and Sam and Katie Hoyle. We also got to meet our newest troop member, little Pumpkin Neu who was watching from the crowd. She sure lives up to her name.



We also had a great time doing gift wrapping at a local Barnes & Noble store where we earned \$200 in donations for DSA. Sky Cranston really wowed the crowd with her ability to take money directly from people and put it in a basket. Sam was in his element working the crowd throughout the store. Dogs participating in the gift wrapping event along with Sky were Darby Jones and Sam, Katie and Mackenzie Hoyle. We were very glad to have human troop member Elizabeth Najdich join us as well.



Many of our troop members participated individually in holiday activities that have special meaning for them, including things like bell ringing and special holiday visits at hospitals and nursing homes.

To close out the year I asked troop members to reflect on their accomplishments for 2019. Following is what they shared:

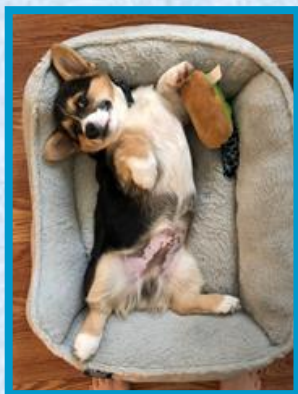
Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Darby has had a very busy year. She is a member of the K9 Salute Team at the Michigan War Dog Memorial and participated in 12 interments this year. Darby also served as a Therapy Dog at 3 different Veteran events: 4 days at The Moving Wall (Vietnam Wall replica) in Livonia Michigan and 5 days in Hamburg, Michigan as well as 4 days at the Freedom is Never Free Memorial in Howell, Michigan.

Darby and I became a certified Animal Assisted Crisis Response Team with HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response. Darby also continues her Therapy Dog visits at several locations.

Carrie Jones



I am so happy to have this new little ham! Jaxson is just waiting to take his test to be our troop's newest dog scout! We are also looking forward to starting agility classes soon!

Diane Baughman

Katie has a lot to be proud of for 2019. With rapidly failing eyesight she continues to do many things that you might think she wouldn't be able to do. She continues to performing for the Rock 'n' Roll K9 Performance Team, weaving, doing jumps and tunnels, playing games and doing tricks. It all is much slower than it used to be but she still gets the job done. Katie has learned many adaptive behaviors that help her to remain independent. She continues to learn new tricks and mastered some freestyle dance moves that she and Mackenzie perform together.

Sally Hoyle



Mackenzie had a big year, especially for a dog so young. I couldn't be more proud of her for meeting the requirements for and earning the very difficult Animal Actor badge at camp in July. She also earned many other badges including kayaking, canoeing, SUP and sign language to name a few. She loved that she was able to go with her brother and sister when the troop did holiday gift wrapping even if she needed a break during the day. She has started working on letterboxing and geocaching badges and loves to take hikes.

Sally Hoyle

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Moose has made some major strides this past year. We have worked very hard with engagement & focus in the midst of distractions and it is paying off.

While at camp, she earned all the Obstacle badges as well as Agility 1. The obstacles were not the accomplishment, staying with me, off leash, in that big, beautiful, and filled with smells agility field is what I was ecstatic about. In the past, her nose would get the best of her and all focus would be lost. She continues to work on her tricks and has earned her Expert Trick Dog Title this year as well. I just love her Heart!

Barrie Lynn Wood

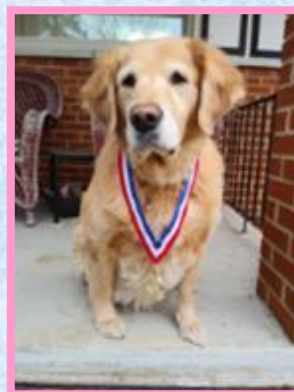


Sam I Am earned his TDIEVA (Exceptional Volunteer Achievement) title for reaching the milestone of 350 documented therapy dog visits. Sam has been spreading canine good cheer at the Ann Arbor, MI VA hospital since 2012, brightening Wednesday evenings for hundreds of Veteran patients and their families. He's also semi-famous for his selfies with the staff. 😊

Sally Hoyle and Julie Lawler-Hoyle

I am so proud of the fact that before she passed away, Sassy was able to earn her AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog Title, along with her Community Service 3 badge. Both of these are very special to me, because of all the things we did, working with people in a variety of settings, both therapy and other community service projects, was the most rewarding. Sassy did a lot for a lot of people, and I couldn't be more proud.

Michelle Neu



I am so proud of the lives Shelby has touched the past 8 years through her therapy visit(s). Shelby officially retires on Saturday, December 21st from the FH Library and already hung up her hat this month at the WB Library.

Julie Benson



Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Though Sheldon is still a Cadet Scout, he has been busy! He has a therapy dog job at Ascention Genesys Hospital every Tuesday morning for 2-3 hours. He, also, participates in children reading to the therapy dogs at the Flint Library and Linden Elementary School at least once/month.

Now that summer is over and he isn't swimming, he is learning barn hunt, enjoying hiking, running and playing ball.

Sandy Bowers



Sky's biggest accomplishment in 2019 was winning 1st Place at the Trick Contest at the Dog Bowl in Frankenmuth. For the last 3 years, she has placed 2nd and then the 2 years before that she was 3rd and 4th. She also earned her Tricks badge at camp in October. So, very proud of her!!

Diane Cranston



Sunny was my Super Star. He tried it all, he loved it all, he excelled at it all. His raw passion for life, learning, and love pushed him past fears, doubts, and challenges on a daily basis. Yes, he earned many badges, racked up many titles, and even earned his Champion Trick Dog Title and Therapy Dog Certification this year, but he did so much more than that. Sunny's biggest accomplishment was Giving His All. He never gave up, he stayed focused, he always had time for fun, and he lived every minute like it was his last.

Gone way too young.

Always loving my Sunny Bear

The Tin Roof's Sundance Kid, CHTD, CGC, CGCA, CGCU, FDC, TDI, TDCH, SDP, and Dog Scout aka Sunny. 3/17/14 - 9/6/19

Barrie Lynn Wood

Troop 217 will always cherish the ones we lost in 2019 and they will always have a place in our hearts as they remain Motor City K9s. ❤️

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

To kick off the holiday season we did our annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army on Black Friday. Our local chapter reported that we raised more money in two hours than any other volunteer in an entire weekend. Our pups had a great time greeting people and making new friends. They were excited to get pats from everyone entering and again when they exited our local Walmart.



Troop 219 has participated in every DSA Turkey Trot and we were thrilled to trot for the 5th Annual Sparky Turkey Trot. We did our 5k at Bluff Point State park, took a break to collect seashells and loved the great weather.

**DSA Troop 219
Turkey Trot**



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

For our annual first Day Hike we were thrilled to be joined by some potential new Troop members! The new pups blended perfectly with our troop and really enjoyed their hike with us. The weather was chilly, but the sun came out for a great day.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Annual First Day hike with Dog Scout Troop 219!
New year and New Troop members!

Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

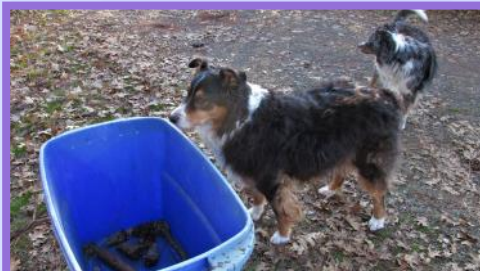
iZAR & I are mainly the ones doing DSA activities while other troop members are tackling remodeling projects and/or health issues. We joined a FB group: 100 mile challenge to Spring. Only our goal is 100 Hours of 'together' time. We're over half way already.

I decided to work on iZAR & Lilura's mushing training. I've been practicing their voice cues when I take them on walks, but I was surprised at how well they responded when I put their harness on and hooked them together! They both like it, but Lilura likes it a LOT! We've only had a few lessons with the harness, but I'm hoping to at least have them ready to start work with my scooter by the first day of spring/end of the challenge.



We walk/hike 4-6 days a week. As you can see, iZAR likes water no matter how hot or COLD it is! He even goes in the water when it's in the 30's outside! BRRRRRR

I had them both helping gather Pine cones before the snow came. They are very helpful scouts.

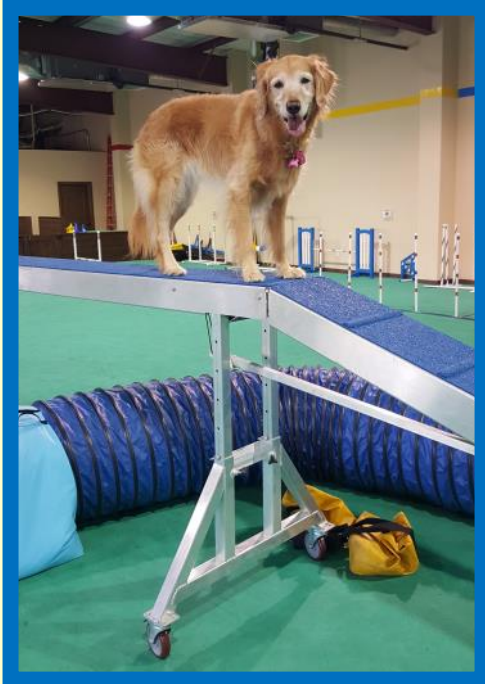


A friend just got a new puppy and they went with us for a feed run to the big town. iZAR likes puppies and thinks he is their uncle. The puppy just adored iZAR and was mimicking him. It was so cute to see him playing with her and showing her around.



Dog Scouts 2020 Goals

Alex



wants to complete the requirements for the Parkour, Fundraising II and Copy Cat badges. He wants to hit the trails more and get his mom & dad to keep practicing their canine massage techniques.

Mart & Cindy Ratliff—119

Annie



will be working on sitting calmly and being quiet while riding in the car.
Dave & Jeanette Heideman – 183

Delta



hopes to work on being more focused and participate in more competitive events.
Claudette Smith—101

Georgia



just turned 2, is full of life;
she gets very excited
around other dogs.

My 2020 goal is to slowly
integrate her into Dog
Scout activities by taking
her to meetings.
Tammy Doak—119



Goldy



I want more sniffy walks and retrieving with Mom (Fay
Reid—Troop 101).

I would also like mom to finish her parts of the badges
that I have completed my parts like canine actor, K9
nutrition & Doga.

I'd also like to finish the Scent Hurdle badge I started in
Texas.

Hoyle Family 2020



Sam, Katie and Mackenzie from troop 217 may look very similar but they all enjoy very different interests and have varied goals for the year.

Katie will enjoy her annual trip to Florida this year where she always enjoys taking walks in new and different places. We are currently working on a video that shows all of the adaptive behaviors we use to compensate for her declining vision and plan to finish that this year. We want to be able to show people that blind dogs can still do amazing things.

Mackenzie had a banner year in 2019 and she earned the very difficult Animal Actor badge. Once we got bitten by the Animal Actor bug we decided to continue the journey by working on a new and challenging film which showcases the many complex behaviors we've been working on and plan to finish this in 2020. Mackenzie came very close to finishing her Manners badge last year and will get the final requirement checked off this year. She wants to do more letterboxing and geocaching in 2020 and hopes she is ready to walk in parades in the holiday season.

Sam will continue to do therapy work with the Veteran's Hospital and University of Michigan students this year. He will be working on his final AKC title, THDD (Therapy Dog Distinguished) and should achieve it by late summer or early fall. He also looks forward to working on letterboxing and geocaching with his sisters, lots of walks in the woods at camp and trying his hand at some new badges.



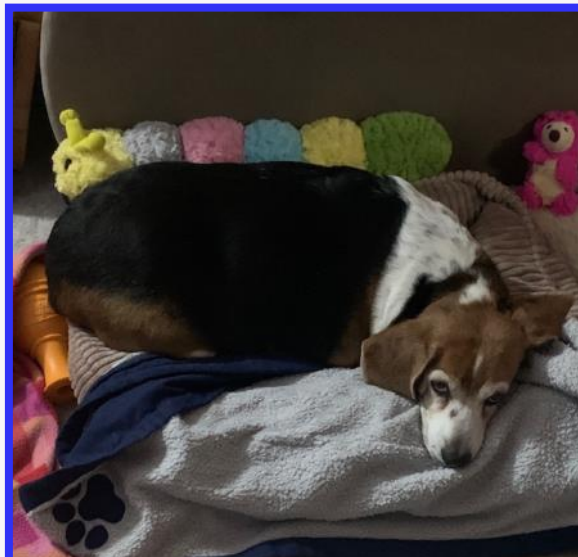
Pictured from left, Mackenzie, Sally, Katie, Julie and Sam.

2020 GOALS

Is a senior rescue street Beagle who adopted the James family in July.

Our goal is to start training classes and pass the Dog Scout test before the end of the year.
Leslie James—119

Libbie Belle



Malu



My goals for Malu are to help her not be afraid of the teeter, pass 3 new badges, build her self-confidence and lessen her fear of people and other dogs.

Pam Barnum —119

Molly (black lab)



wants Grandma Reid to get better so they can go on walks together & to get more badges with Aunt Kaylene.

Kaylene's goal for Molly is to overcome her fear of men and fulfill her potential of becoming a confident, fun loving dog. Badge goals for this year are: Scent Detection, Retrieve, First Aid, Manners, Sign Language, K9 Nutrition, Agility and possibly Canoeing.

Kaylene Long—101



Nim



AKC Scent Work Advanced title
 DSA Scent Discrimination
 All Dog Parkour Level I & possibly II
 DSA Parkour
 DSA Hiking &/or PackDog titles
 DSA Backpacking badge

Begin the training steps for:

- Obstacles
- Treibball 2
- Rally FrEe Novice
- Tracking
- Tricks
- Fundraiser-Take/Put
- Fundraiser-Baskets

Shirley Conley—183

Oakley



became a therapy dog this year so it is my goal to obtain the therapy dog badge through DSA. We volunteer at Mansfield Methodist hospital every Saturday but I'd like to find 1-2 other ways to volunteer per month.

Oakley keeps me in shape. We love hiking together, trail running, kayaking, running 5k's, and anything that gets us outdoors. I hope to get a couple badges relating to being outside this year.

Lastly, it's my goal to just enhance our bond as a whole. I take her to work with me at Three Dog Bakery, so we are together 24/7, except when I'm at school twice a week. This year i want to make HER a bigger priority in my life when it comes to taking her to do things that enrich her life and make her a happy dog. She deserves it.
 Faith Whatley—119

Ripley



My goals for this year are to continue to enjoy the journey with Ripley (who will be 11 in March). She is my co-pilot in a lot of what I enjoy from Dog Scouts, Canine Therapy Work within the community and airport and now as a National Crisis Response Canine, plus just having a fun together.

Teresa Irvine—157

Sebastian



- Continue practicing my “rock solid recall” since I’m earning more off-leash privileges
- My doorbell manners are much better now, but still need some polishing this year
- Started learning Nose Work last year and want to do lots more this year since I really like it!
- Train for at least two badges at home (looking at Sign Language, and Retrieve)
- Attend Texas Mini Camp in November (I had a blast last year!)

Karen Phillips –119

Stevie Ray



wants to earn his Art of Shaping badge (still!). He wants to hit the trails more and get his mom & dad to keep practicing their canine massage techniques.
Mart & Cindy Ratliff—Troop 119

Tachi



AKC Scent Work Excellent title
 DSA Scent Discrimination
 DSA Retrieve
 All Dog Parkour Level I & possibly II
 DSA Parkour
 DSA Hiking &/or PackDog titles
 AKC Open Jumpers With Weaves title
 AKC Agility Standard title
 Work towards:
 DSA Dock Diving
 DSA Tracking
 DSA Tricks
 AKC Companion Dog Excellent title
 DSA Agility Partners
 Shirley Conley—183

Tripoli



would like to finish her Grand Champion conformation and nosework titles, earn her DSA Parkour badge, certify as a therapy dog and begin working on new badges. She loves Dog Scouts!
Becky Paxson—119

Waffle



will become a Dog Scout!
Cheryl Nava—119

Yeagar



hopes to continue working on behaving better in public.
Claudette Smith Troop101

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
Instagram: [#dogscoutsofamerica](https://www.instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica)

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."

President: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com
(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

Dog Scout Camp (MI): Lonnie Olson — DogScoutCamp@gmail.com
(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, **Sparky's Camp Store**, Camp Scholarships)

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

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration: Barrie Lynn Wood and Cyndi Stone — troops@dogscouts.org
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

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

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com
Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com
Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
(Also for competition registration numbers)

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org
(Also for newsletter distribution)