

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 23 Issue 2 March/April 2020

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

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April is Canine Fitness Month

If your dog activities involve jumping, walking or running, quick changes in direction, carrying a backpack, balancing on a water vessel, climbing, swimming, pulling, or if your dog is expected to sit or stand for any length of time, then you should be incorporating conditioning exercises into your dog's daily routine.

You can get started by reading the information found on

[DOGa Exercise](#) and [K9 Fitness](#)

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
May 15th

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

Happy 25th Anniversary!

by Sally Hoyle

Our year long celebration of our 25th year of camp continues. As a reminder, on the 25th of each month we'll send an email to one lucky member and award them with a special prize. We'll choose a different reason to surprise a member every month, but you won't know what 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 February 25 winner was **Kristen Standstede** of Troop 240 in Malmo, Nebraska along with her dog Arrow. Kristen was chosen by random draw from all of those who completed the annual troop report. She received a \$25 gift certificate to the camp store which she can use when the store reopens in the spring. In the meantime, we hope that Kristen and Arrow are 'window shopping' on our web site and getting their order ready to place!



On March 25 we notified **Robyn Porter** of Troop 177 in Indianapolis, Indiana that she was a winner too! Robyn and her dog Hallie were selected by random draw from all that had submitted and earned badges this year. Robyn and Hallie will be receiving a gift basket courtesy of Pet Supplies Plus full of things to motivate them to continue training and some 'just for fun' gifts as well.



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 letterboxes or geocaches. We can pick the winner by random draw of all who meet that month's requirements or we might reward the 25th dog/handler to achieve or reach the goal. 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!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of DSA.

This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

Our calendar feature in the January newsletter yielded results! We had ONE photo submitted for the 2021 calendar. But a single photo does not make for a good calendar. We need your help to make sure the 2021 calendar is the best ever!

Our March feature this year focuses on Troop 183 in central Florida. This is a growing and active troop and members many different activities. Activities are chosen by the group at a planning meeting at the beginning of each year. In the early years the troop focused on basic shaping and obedience, hiking and community events. Now that the troop is more developed they enjoy activities such as agility, barn hunt, dock diving, swimming and K9 fitness. The troop spends time together and challenges each other to apply the skills their dogs have learned in new ways, and to introduce their dogs to new activities and experiences.



As DSA members we have opportunities to introduce our dogs to so many new things! Sometimes we find that our dogs have undiscovered talent and a true passion for a particular sport. Many people choose to build on the dog's talent and go on to compete and earn titles. Our April 2020 page features dogs who have gone on to develop advanced skills and earn titles in Agility and Musical Freestyle. These titles would not be possible without a very strong bond between these dogs and handlers. Often it's the Dog Scout title that really helps to strengthen that bond. For that reason we've also chosen to feature some of our new Dog Scouts from 2019. Congratulations to all of these very special dogs and their handlers!

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

Badge Program Updates & Web Site Changes

by Sally Hoyle

We've had a REALLY BIG project going on behind the scenes and I'm excited to finally share it with everyone. For the past 6 months we've been reviewing ALL of the badge documentation on our web site with the goal of reconciling discrepancies and providing clarity. Our badge program has grown considerably over the past 25 years and we realized that in posting additional information to support various badges we actually created confusion in some areas.

EVERY training document, criteria document, check off sheet and all other supporting information has been reviewed. Documents that were redundant have been combined so you may find a smaller number of documents listed, but all of the great information is still there. You simply have fewer clicks to get to it.

We clarified some of the badge requirements to ensure they are true to the badge's original concept. The intent was not to change any of our badge requirements and we haven't done that, we just wanted to make everything easier to find and use, and make sure there is no confusion as to the interpretation of the requirements. We know we have a lot of great information on our site, but it wasn't always easy to remember where to find something when you needed it.

We are also working to make sure that all of our badges are in the categories where they belong, and we've made some name changes for some of those categories. There are other text changes on some of the badge pages. Once you open the updated documents you'll notice that they have a new look and feel and the format no longer varies from one badge to another.

The review and update process is complete now and everything is being reposted to the site as quickly as possible. I'd like to thank Lonnie Olson for working through the review process with me and Shirley Conley for helping me stay organized during the upload process. I'd also like to give a **BIG thank you** to our web master **Sonja Klattenburg** for making the necessary changes to the site and uploading all of the documents. There were many other subject matter experts we contacted during the review process and their contributions are appreciated as well.

I hope that everyone likes what they see when looking up badge information. We've tried to make sure that everything is as easy to use as possible.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at sally.hoyle@yahoo.com with questions, concerns or other feedback. Questions can also be dropped to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com.

Quarantined! Now What?

To my DSA Family

We know that you all must be overwhelmed by news about the COVID-19 virus. Since many of you are either working from home or simply at home take advantage of the opportunity to work on teaching your dog new things and working on badges. It's a good time to take a look at those badges you can easily work on at home. In fact, why not take this time to work on Disaster Preparedness? It seems quite timely and the requirements will give you peace of mind when facing an event like the COVID-19 pandemic. Toilet paper is not on the list of required items so you won't have to run to the store to get the same item that everyone else seems to need too.

Other badges you might consider working on are Tricks, Manners, Naked Dog and Musical Freestyle. You might also work on your film for the Animal Actor badge if you haven't already completed it. We have many badges available so there's sure to be something for everyone.

Trail titles are also a great way to encourage social distancing. All badges and titles can be paid for online. Please contact staff with questions.

In the meantime, we encourage you to find adventure and solace in the natural world around you. Enjoy your family, stay close to the ones you love, and take this time to live life at a slower pace.

Stay safe,
Lonnie Olson, Founder and DSA Michigan Camp Manager

. . . How About A Troop Challenge?

by Shirley Conley

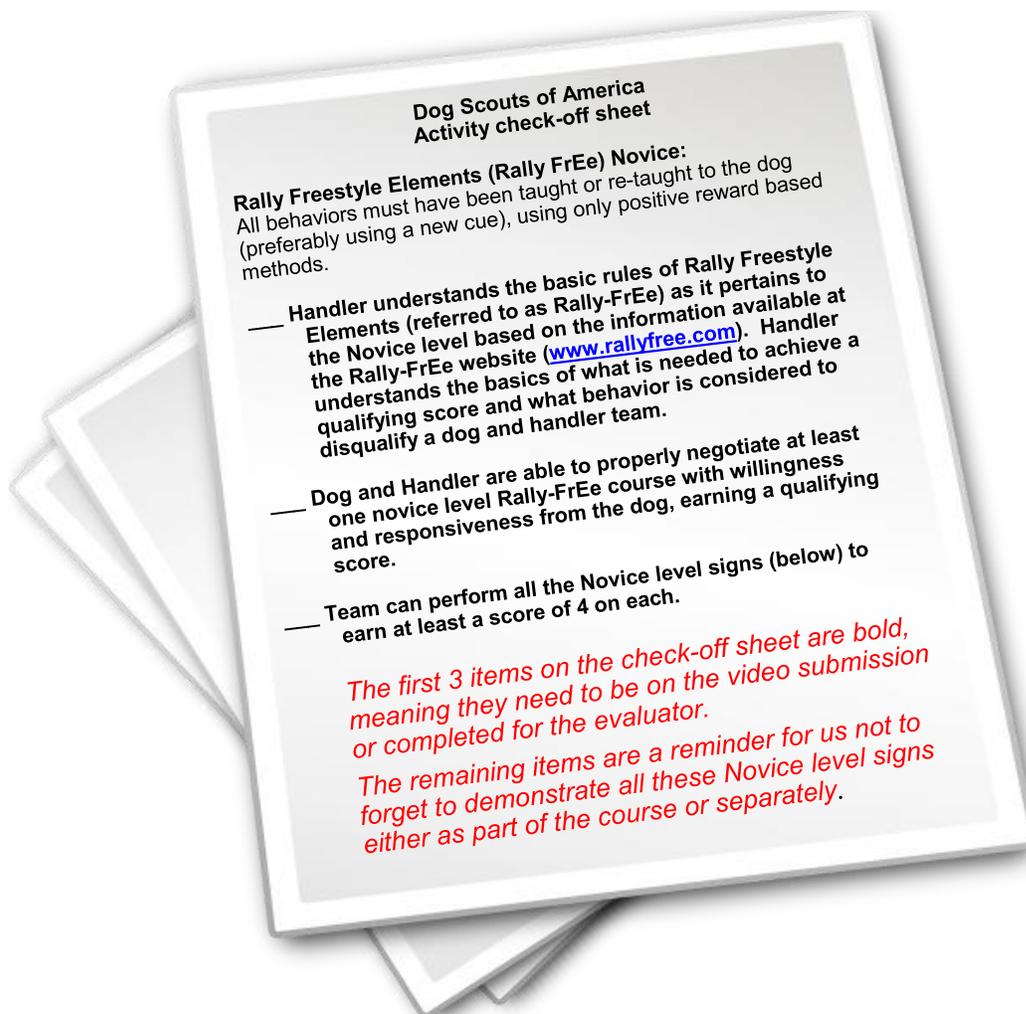
Troop Leaders, are you up for a challenge? In this time of social distancing, self-quarantining, training centers being temporarily closed, and in-person troop activities cancelled or postponed, now would be a great time to get a consensus from troop members on a badge to work on virtually!

You can video how to teach the behaviors outlined on the check-off sheet for the selected badge and share them with your troop, then have your troop teach the behaviors to their dogs and video their dogs performing the learned behaviors. Share your progress on the All Troop Training Facebook Group by posting links to videos uploaded to Youtube, or you can simply share via e-mail among troop members. If the links are shared beyond your immediate troop, we may be able to add these links to our DSA website training pages.

Members of Troop 183 have picked the [Rally FrEe—Novice](#) badge. During our first week we reviewed the signs and rules on the Rally FrEe website, along with the badge requirements. We picked our Free Choice behaviors which can be tricks (for ideas check out the lists on the DSA website under the [Tricks merit badge](#)) or Rally FrEe signs (either from the Novice level or from the upper levels). Next we broke the Novice signs into sets of 8 and are currently working on the first 8.

. . . How About A Troop Challenge? (cont.)

Depending on the skill level, the first week our dogs may work on these behaviors with lures, rewards or without us carrying treats on us. A couple of our dogs have physical limitations, so it's incumbent upon their pet parents to be aware of which behaviors may be painful for these dogs to perform and consider working on only the signs that are used in the Alternative Class. As we progress we can delay reinforcement and work towards not having treats on our person once our dogs understand the behaviors and will perform them on cue.



By the end of your Troop's training sessions, members will have the videos they need to submit via the video evaluation process, or be ready to complete an in-person evaluation when we're able to get together again. They'll also be pros at taking videos with their cell phone or camera, which means taking video for future badge submissions via the video evaluation process will not be so intimidating (review Lonnie's article on taking video that was published in the previous newsletter).

Plus, if you share your video links with us (either e-mailed to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com or posted on the [All Troops Training Facebook group](#)) and give us permission to use, we may be able to include some of them as we update the training pages on the DSA website to provide other dog owners with a more complete training site that accommodates more learning styles.

. . . How About A Troop Challenge? (cont.)

Following is our current badge list, **the badges listed in green** are ones that can be completed while keeping an appropriate social distance from others. Of course you can still start on the other badges if those are what you're interested in, for example teaching the tricks and planning and perfecting your performance for Tricks and Canine Actor; you'll just need to wait for a later date to get a helper or an audience for the badge check-off. Geocaching and Letterboxing can be done if you're healthy and your search area is not under a stay-at-home order, but we would recommend wearing rubber gloves to handle the boxes/caches and perhaps incorporating some community service by wiping the finds with Clorox wipes so they're disinfected for the next person. If you're healthy and don't want to go out, then you can focus on stamp carving and cache building for future hides.

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](#)

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

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

DOG SCOUT

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

MISCELLANEOUS

[All Dog Band](#)
[Animal Actor](#)
[Art of Shaping \(Painting\)](#)
[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](#)

NOSE WORK

[Advanced Scent Discrimination](#)
[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](#)
[IMPROV](#)
[Manners](#)
[Naked Dog Obedience](#)
[Rally 1](#)
[Rally 2](#)
[Retrieve](#)
[Tricks](#)

PULLING

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

TRAILS/OUTDOORS

[Backpacking](#)
[Biking](#)
[Cani-Cross](#)
[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](#)

Post the badge your troop has chosen on the All Troop Training Facebook page. Those who don't have a Troop near them can follow along with one of the Troops' progress or select a different badge and share your progress.

Remember that sharing links on the Facebook Group does not count as the merit badge submission—that still needs to be e-mailed to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com as outlined in our Jan-Feb newsletter and on our website.

Troop Advertising

The Troop advertising on Facebook was very successful last summer. I would like to do it again this summer. If you would like your Troop to be advertised, please email the following information to DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

Submission Deadline: **May 1st 2020**

1. Troop #
2. Troop Location, include State, City or Major Area
3. Troop Name if you have one (Ex: Motor City K9s)
4. How to contact you (please choose one - email, facebook or website)
5. Your Troop's 3 THREE Favorite Activities
6. **Include 3-8 Hi-res unedited photos.** Please do not send photoshop-edited photos.

Happy Trails

Kelly Dean

DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

Rainbow Bridge

Troop 149 is saddened by the loss of three of the River City Rovers founding members. All three were present at the earliest stages of the Troop's development, earning many badges and attending several Dog Scout Mini-Camps in both Missouri and Texas.



Angel Beezley was the first to leave us in May 2018. She was 17 and especially loved hiking, Rally and geocaching.



Tiger Davies passed over last year at age 14 years. He certified as a Dog Scout in 2008 and earned the Puppy Paddler and Hiking merit badges that same year. He is greatly missed.



Foxy Pyatt-Barr, left us Christmas morning 2019. Foxy was with her family for 13 years. In addition to attending the Missouri and Texas Mini-Camps, she also attended camp in Michigan. Foxy enjoyed hiking.

Troop Leader Shout Out

Are you missing a troop in your area? The following characteristics, (found on our website) are what DSA looks for in our Troop Leaders. If you don't have a troop established in your area, perhaps you'll see yourself in the following list and realize that DSA's next awesome Troop Leader is staring at you in the mirror:

👍 **Willingness to learn**

We all have things to learn. Dog training is an ever changing field of study and an open mind to try new things and a desire to learn more helps a great deal. As a troop leader, people will look to you for guidance in their dog's training. This does not mean you need to be a master trainer! If you can connect with a positive trainer in your area, you can refer people to that person or training center when they need advice or help (as long as taking classes from that person or training center is not a troop membership requirement.) Because people will be asking you "how do I get my dog to..." you'll find that if you are willing to do some research to find the answer for them, you will be learning as well. The DSA website is loaded with training advice for basic training, problem behaviors and specialty behaviors like the ones needed for some of the badges. Attending seminars, DSA camps and Leadership Retreats is a great way to expand your knowledge, if you are able to take advantage of these training opportunities.

👍 **Familiarity with DSA and the troop program**

The Dog Scouts of America website is PACKED with information. By reading the web pages, you can learn about the DSA organization, its programs, camps and training information. You should plan to spend some time browsing through the website to learn as much about the organization as possible. This will help you accurately answer questions posed by troop members (or future troop members or reporters) and will help you become familiar with all that DSA has to offer.

👍 **Organizational skills**

There are some organizational skills and information management skills needed for running a troop. If you are lacking these skills, the good news is that you can have other members of the troop designated to many of these "jobs." Someone can be in charge of planning troop activities and letting the troop know about them. You can have someone in charge of keeping track of the troop member's contact information and achievements, welcoming new members and removing ones that move on from the troop membership roster. Someone can be put in charge of the finances for the troop as well. If you collect dues or donations, you'll need a way to manage those funds responsibly.

👍 **A good example**

It is expected that the DSA troop leaders will set good examples of the Dog Scout way and uphold the Dog Scout laws. Your actions and attitude will be mimicked by your troop members, so be sure you are setting a good example for them to follow. You should use only positive training methods, maintain your dog's care and health, be responsible in the management of your dog when you are out in public, etc. Your familiarity with the Dog Scout laws and the concepts that DSA strives to increase in the dog owning public will help you tell others WHY you think these things are important. This can help persuade them to follow your lead in their care and management of their own dog(s).

👍 **Good communication skills**

When you are emailed or phoned by someone interested in joining your troop, it is courteous to answer them in a prompt manner. If a troop member has questions or concerns, addressing them quickly can help them feel they are important. Being able to clearly explain a training technique or give information about DSA will help people understand. Making sure your troop members know about upcoming events in a timely manner is important for high levels of troop participation. Everyone is busy, so getting events on the calendar as early as possible helps everyone plan.

Troop Leader Shout Out (cont.)

👍 Good intentions

The reason for being a troop leader should be to help others, not for your own monetary gain. Helping others understand their dogs better, present training and socialization opportunities, and help in the community. The troop should not be a means of increasing your income by using the membership list as a sales audience. This does not mean you can't charge for providing training instruction, but it can't be a requirement for the troop members.

Meet Some of Our Troop Leaders

Each troop has a different personality, shaped by the interests and skills of the Leaders and troop members. As you read about some of our Troop Leaders, be encouraged that our Troop Leaders started out as regular DSA members, just like you. Some of them were not members for long before stepping into a leadership role. No two Troop Leaders are alike in personality, leadership style or skill set, but they all share the desire to improve the lives of dogs, their humans and their communities.

- 👍 Anita Dudley joined DSA in 2009. She has been Troop Leader for Troop 177 since 2013. She has also served DSA as a Board Member in 2012.

“I joined Dogs Scouts because I loved the idea of doing so many things with your dogs and be able to teach them and bond with my dog. I also was a Girl Scout young and thought it would be cool to build that relationship with my dog and earn badges at the same time. I liked the foundation and principals that Dogs Scouts was built on. The thing I love the most about Dogs Scouts is that you get to spend time with your canine and build relationships. You learn from other dog owners and at the same time have a lot of fun and earn badges. “



- 👍 Christine Geschwill (Troop 157, FL) has been a DSA member for 10 years and a Troop Leader for 5 years. Christine is also a Scoutmaster and Badge Evaluator

“Spending quality time with my dogs. Initially I joined because I was looking for more training opportunities/challenges for my dog.”

Meet Some of Our Troop Leaders (cont.)

👉 Donna Johns joined DSA in 2010 and has been the behavior consultant for Troop 198 (CA) training meetings. She became Troop Leader in 2016 and a Scoutmaster last year.

“I initially became interested since my sons were in Boy Scouting and we had just rescued Spike our dog. Thought it would be a great way for them to train, provide enrichment for Spike, and develop and maintain a solid and fulfilling relationship with him. I love that DSA insists upon the use of positive training methods and techniques. I also love, agree with, and follow DSA's Mission, Values, and Vision.”



👉 Kelly Dean has been a member of DSA for 10 years and Troop Leader since 2012. Other roles for DSA include Scoutmaster, Badge Evaluator, Trail Dog Program Coordinator, and CRN Secretary

“DSA helped me to bond with my first pug, Zora.”



👉 Kristin Sandstede has been a DSA member for 2 years and started Troop 240 last year.

“I love how it gives my clients fun ways to connect and interact with their dogs!! I also love how it uses science-based training as well as encourages everyone to try new things and never stop learning!”

Meet Some of Our Troop Leaders (cont.)

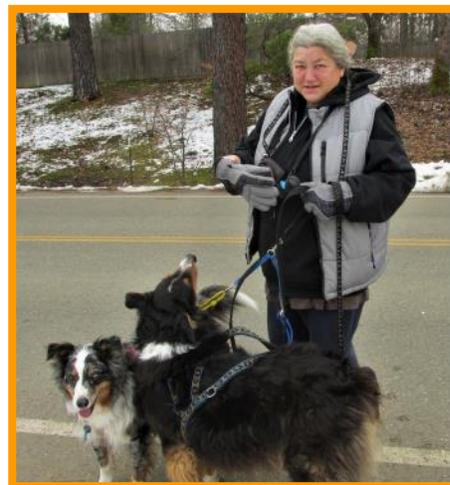


👍 Mart & Cindy Ratliff joined DSA in 2000 and started Troop 119 in TX in 2002. Mart served two terms on the DSA Board of Directors, is a Badge Evaluator, Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster Evaluator. Cindy was Recognition Program Director for 4-½ years, is a Scoutmaster and Badge Evaluator. They have led the Texas Mini-Camp for 16 years.

“We loved learning about how much stronger a bond a person can have with their dog through positive training methods and using that to learn and teach together with your dog in your personal relationship and being able to share that with the community.”

👍 Mary Blackstone (Troop 229, CA), joined DSA around 2014 and became a Troop Leader the following year. Mary is also a Badge Evaluator.

“I love that I can find free and accessible information and encouragement to teach my dog just about ANYTHING, without using punishment and he is always eager and excited to learn and execute those things!”



👍 Michael and Ruth Robinson joined DSA in 2016, and took on the leadership role for Troop 237 that same year.

The Robinsons lead a very active troop in California, scheduling many training days and hikes for members. They are often at local events discussing the joys of DSA with interested dog owners.

Meet Some of Our Troop Leaders (cont.)

- 👍 Robyn Porter joined DSA in 2009 and was Troop Leader for Troop 177 from 2010 thru 2013. Robyn volunteered as DSA's Troop Coordinator from 2012 to 2015.

“Although I had a history of wonderful family dogs, I had never participated in any organized activities beyond obedience class. I wanted to do more with my dog, and specifically wanted to learn to go camping. Looking back I'm thrilled Hallie and I learned to do things we only saw on TV such as agility and scent work. With Dog Scouts we've had the confidence and the opportunity to try things I never heard of before like Barn Hunt, Drill Team and Carting. And yes, camping. Lots of camping! I've learned so much about dog behavior and training, not to mention enjoying the comradery of other DSA members and dog lovers!”



- 👍 Sally Hoyle has been a member of DSA for 8 years and a Troop Leader for 7 years. Sally is currently President of DSA, the Badge Program Administrator, the Calendar Photo Coordinator and Editor, she is also a Michigan Camp Staff Instructor, the Mini Camp Mentor, a Scoutmaster, and Badge Evaluator.

“DSA connected me with like-minded people, many of whom have become great friends, and provided me with countless opportunities to try and enjoy new things with my dogs. My life and my dogs lives are so much richer because of DSA!”



- 👍 Shirley Conley joined DSA in 2012 and took over leadership of Troop 183, FL in 2013. Shirley also serves DSA as Membership Chair, *The Scoop* Editor and Board Member.



“I joined DSA looking for activities my dogs and I could enjoy together away from the pressure of competition obedience. DSA has provided me with the incentive to teach new skills in order to try new activities. I'm finding more activities that my dogs like to do, plus the physical and mental exercise and the positive reinforcement they receive through DSA participation enhances their quality of life.

As a bonus, DSA's video badge submission process has allowed us to earn merit badges even though we don't have Badge Evaluators in our area . . . I LOVE THIS OPTION!”

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—TX

Troop 119 started the year off with a casual hike at a favorite park. We had a small group for this meeting but the weather was beautiful but those of us who were able to attend had a great day in the park with our best friends. We were in the midst of our troop fundraiser with Tiff's Treats and troop member, Maureen Callahan, was kind enough to bring cookies to the meeting to support the fundraiser and also give us something yummy to munch on after our hike!



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In February, we enjoyed another beautiful day at the park. Troop member, Karen Phillips, did a presentation on Copy Cat and the dogs and their human enjoyed working on the requirements for the badge or just plain had a good time practicing something new!



Karen presents Copy Cat



Gizmo works on a behavior



Alex retrieves a cone



Alex circles a jug



Alex turns on a push light



Libbie Belle copies Leslie

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In March, we were invited to an area country club to do a DSA presentation to the Western Fort Worth Rotary Club.



The members were very interested in meeting the dogs and learning all the cool things that Dog Scouts does in the community and fun things that they learn together.



Alex Ratliff did a fundraising demo showing how she collects money for DSA and other worthy causes by collecting dollars and also carrying her basket around to collect funds. She then did a painting demo that everybody loved.

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Cadet Scout Barney

In January, Troop 149 met to celebrate two newly certified Dog Scouts. Bess Stanze and Mason Hargrove passed their test with flying colors. They will be an inspiration to all of our wanna-be's. So far, they have set a fine example.

In February, we decided to put those noses to work. Some hunted for treats and others sniffed out odor (birch, this time).



And because it was February, the month of love, we tried to make a heart design with our dogs, with limited success!



But no matter if the dog had a "super nose" or not or if the teams made a heart, everyone had fun just being together. After all that sniffing, plus a walk, most of our guys were ready for a nap.

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

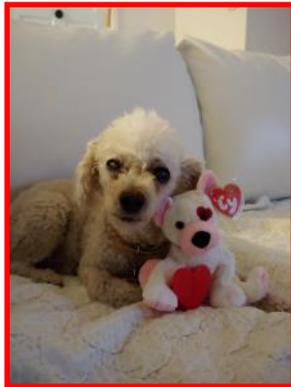
During mid-January the troop came together to celebrate all the fun we had in 2019 and planned events for the upcoming year. We had a nice potluck and then afterwards several of us took our pups for a walk to enjoy the beautiful weather.



Happy Valentines from Troop 157 "Broward Paw Patrol".
Valentines fun pictures of some of our furbabies showing their cuteness and love.



Falice



Penny



Lucy



Sydney



Jessie



Jessie



Ripley



Squeaky



Amo



Jolie



Luna



Pennie



Sage

Troop 157—FL (cont.)

Our troop member Herena who is an Usui Reiki/Master teacher held an enlightening event so we could learn about the healing benefits of Reiki for ourselves and our animals. Reiki is a holistic healing method that is accessible to everyone. Reiki means “Universal Life Force Energy”, and it promotes healing on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual levels. We all enjoyed the mini session and some of troop members are looking to learn more about it. For more information: click on the picture to the right to read an article on how Reiki is being used in shelters.



Lucy



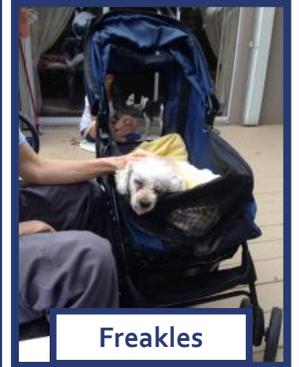
Oreo



River



Ripley



Freakles

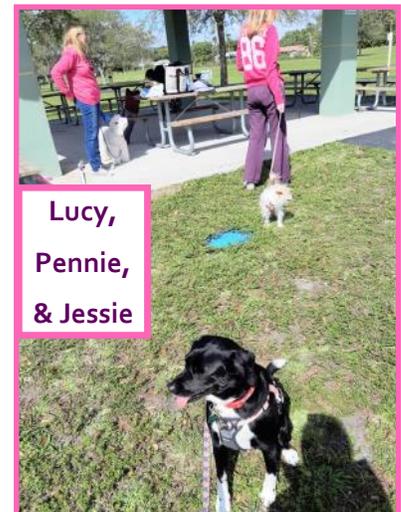
Our Troop Leader Christine Geschwill held a DSA badge class/check off since there are several of our members very close to getting all the check offs needed. As long as there is interest she is hoping to have a check-off session each month, because she really wants to see everyone succeed and help our troop grow. It turned out to be a nice day for a class and had a good turnout.



Dog Scout Sign Off



Katie



Lucy,
Pennie,
& Jessie



Lucy



Lucy & Pennie

Troop 157—FL (cont.)

Teresa and Ripley supported the HSBC Walk4Animals event for our 10th year in a row! They were able to raise about \$700, which was awesome thanks to all those who donated and supported us.



The Troop attended a couple of local event (Doggie Palooza/Woofstock): This was a great way to work with your dog on the following Dog Scout Laws as well as to be a model for what relationship based training can do for you and your dog. This didn't mean you, or your dog, have to be perfect, but that you model helping your dog succeed, and how positive-reinforcement can help that relationship.

- **Dog Scout Law #1** My dog must be safe with people and other dogs. I will always be courteous when I am with my dog in public. We will set good examples of a responsible parent and a well-trained dog. I will socialize my puppy and continue the socialization throughout his or her life so that he or she will not fear novel stimuli, strange people or new dogs.
- **Dog Scout Law #7** I will always show kindness and caring toward my dog, so that others can observe the joys of responsible and loving dog parenting and appreciate the bond between my well-behaved dog and myself.
- **Dog Scout Law #4** I must obey leash laws and other rules when accompanying my dog to a park, business or other place where dogs are allowed. In an effort to reduce the number of places that refuse admittance to dogs, I will not let my dog be a nuisance and will keep my dog under control at all times. I will not allow my dog to harass wildlife. I will be familiar with and obey any laws regarding my dog such as license requirements, travel safety and vaccination documentation. I will not represent my Dog Scout in a way that will mislead the public regarding his or her right to accompany me in public places.



Plus Jessie and Linda had a little fun on the lure course.

In the spirit of DSA posting March was celebrating Dr Seuss's birthday! Here are a few pictures of some of our dogs letting children read to them during their monthly volunteer activities.



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop #177 met on March 8 for a training day! We practiced skills and advised each other. The dogs had a chance to run and play as well.



Sharon & Zena



Peggy & Penny



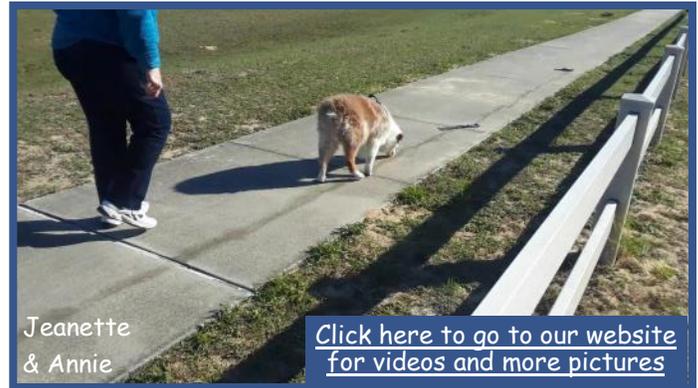
Anita & Darbey

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

FEBRUARY - TRACKING DOG

At the North Lake Community Park in Umatilla, we worked on tracking using Steve White's Hydration Intensified Tracking Training method. Jeanette's Annie had never tracked before, and this method showed how easy it was for beginner dogs to be superstars.



It's been a while since Jurnee, Nim and Tachi had done tracking, but they picked it up again fairly quickly. Jurnee and Tachi were a little distracted by the kids at baseball practice, but they figured out that treats were available on the ground if they stayed focused on their task.

Nim had a difficult track because she didn't get a practice track on the pavement but came out and worked the dirt/gravel area. This made it hard to see what was a treat and what was a piece of gravel, so she really had to use her nose!

All the dogs worked a track with a 90 degree turn to end the activity. It was lots of fun and we'll probably add tracking to one of our other activity dates this year, so we can do it again and more members can join us.

MARCH - RATting DOG

March 1st, we started the new month with Barn Hunt at our friend Betty Ann's.

Nim was our demo dog, and showed everyone how it was done. It's been a year since she finished her Senior Barn Hunt title, but she still remembered how fun it was to find rats.

We had a couple of barn hunt newbies - Marvin and Annie, and they were superstars at using their noses. Annie got the zoomies after she completed the Open-level tunnel and we all cheered for her. Marvin wanted to search for rats all day! He wasn't thrilled about the dark tunnel so we made a modified novice tunnel to introduce him to that element of Barn Hunt, which he handled fine.

Bling told Fran in no uncertain terms where the rats were, yet for all his enthusiasm, he was still able to sit and be still when told. We thought LeeRoy would not want to play with the stinky critters, but even his alerts were a lot clearer than the last time we did this activity, and he was even willing to touch the rat tubes with his nose.

Lily Rose joined our troop for the first time, this was her second exposure to barn hunt and she did great. Being 11 years old didn't stop her from taking the tunnel and climbing on the hay bales.

In between helping us, Betty Ann ran her beautiful Akitas, Lucy and Ink. Both girls have Barn Hunt titles, and it was great to watch them and learn more about how different dogs work.

Cyndi's Jurnee came and worked with Shirley. Jurnee wasn't 100% sure what her job was, especially since her mom wasn't there, so Shirley helped her by rewarding her for any interaction with the live rat tubes. Jurnee started offering a down at the tube, which was cool - possibly a transfer of some of the work Cyndi has been doing in Scent Work.



Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Due to the generosity of a business owner in our area, our troop has an indoor home! It's an auxiliary training building down the street from the owner's primary day care business, Lucky Dog. The new building is called Lucky Dog Too and the owner is making it available to us anytime we want it at no charge. We have met at this location twice and it's really a beautiful place for us to get together.

We have a number of puppies and young dogs in our troop so we've been working on the Dog Scout skills. They're all doing great and have already checked off a number of requirements. We've also been focusing on the emergency stop requirement for the Disaster Preparedness badge as well as Retrieve and Manners.

COVID-19 has curtailed all of our activities at this point but we're finding ways to connect, work on skills and help others. One of our local shelters has a Bountiful Bowls program where they provide dog food to anyone who needs it, no questions asked. Their supplies are dwindling so we decided to help. Julie Lawler-Hoyle has offered to pick up donations from our members homes and get them to the shelter. She's become somewhat of a pro at social distancing and safe handling, and can safely pick things up with no contact, disinfect packaging and then disinfect herself.

It was a bit timely that we were working on Disaster Preparedness, though we didn't know it at the time. Now people are putting together their emergency kits and continuing to work on the emergency stop. We are connecting with one another as best we can and members are sharing videos of different badge requirements. We will welcome the day when we can get together again but for now we're staying safe. We hope everyone else is too.



Lucky Dog Too is a great place for us to get together



Michelle Neu and 7 month old Pumpkin working on focus



7-month-old Bam Bam and sister Moose are always ready for action.



Julie Lawler-Hoyle gives Sky a little attention while mom Diane Cranston looks on



Tula Cook takes a break from practicing tricks



Darby Jones is always ready for a photo op!



Pumpkin and Jaxson (on bench) have become really good friends!



Our senior member Shelby loves to come and socialize

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

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



We ended January with a hike at Biscuit City Preserve.

We planted a couple of new letterboxes and found one geocache. And we found lots of mud for the pups to play in! We found a snake and named him snake, but sent him home.

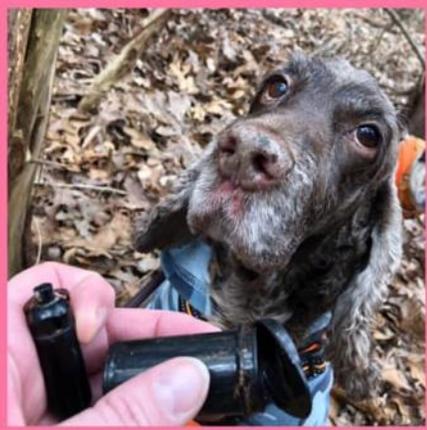
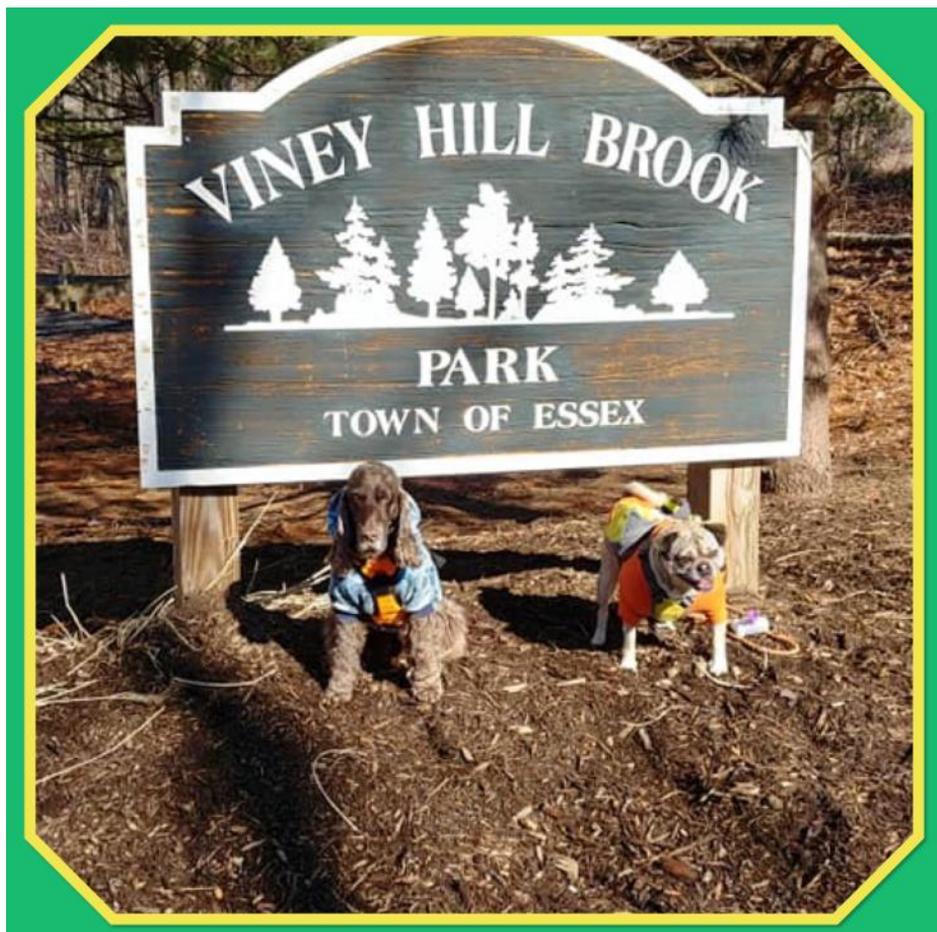


In February, to celebrate Groundhog Day, we had a beautiful relaxing hike at Preston Nature Preserve. We walked several small loops of the preserve and enjoyed the fields, forests, creeks and ponds. There is quite diversity here.

Our Senior dogs (Kayla and Zora) had a great time hanging out with the group and especially with each other. We are so happy that they still enjoy coming out with the group. Now to go home and watch the Puppy Bowl!

Troop 219—CT (cont.)

A couple of us set out on a geocache hunt at Viney Hill Brook Park in Essex CT. We only found one geocache, but the trails are very well marked and we hope to go back to redeem ourselves.



**Merritt Family
Forest Hike
DSA Troop 219**

We celebrated Leap Year with a chilly hike at Merritt Family Forest in Groton, CT. This was a short hike, but we found a geocache and several stream crossings.

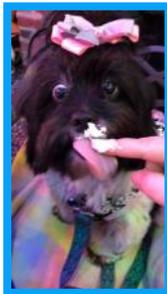
The pups had a great time playing with their friends.

Troop 230—TX ~ Piney Wood Paws

Kristen Keeling—Troop Leader

Since we are a little behind in the newsletters, we want to do a quick recap of 2019.

As always, we held our annual events including our 4th Annual Sweetheart Supper with Your Pooch (which allows both singles and couples to scoop up their favorite pooch(es), grab a yummy goody and socialize at a local restaurant with their dog loving friends. This year we found Jalapeno Tree especially festive with their lights.



We also held our 4th Annual Doggy Easter Egg Hunt where we “hid” over 1000 stuffed eggs in a local park for our furry members and friends to find. The weather was perfect!



2019 brought new topics to our troop. Throughout the year we learned about Photography, Geocaching and Letterboxing, Obstacles and Agility, Essential Oils for Pets, Manners, Puppy Paddlers and Dock Diving, and Canine Massage.



Troop 230—TX (cont.)

We had a fundraiser for our troop in which we were able to Paint our Pets and participated in the national fundraisers: Sparky's Turkey Trot and Calendar sales.



To bring the year to a close we had our Troop Christmas Pawty. This is always filled with great good, fun games and a fabulous white elephant gift exchange that everyone gets into. Since it is held on a beloved member's farm, the dogs are (re)introduced to miniature horses and donkeys. We also took pictures around the Christmas tree.



In 2020 we are looking forward to continuing Phodography, Geocaching and Letterboxing, Obstacles and Agility, while picking up Backpacking, Overnight Camping and more Water Fun. I am sure more will be added to this list as we sit down and plan out the calendar. We are also looking to add at least one Assistant Troop Leader and another Tasks Assistant to help with meeting planning, pictures and newsletters.



We are excited to see what new adventures and joys are headed our way in 2020.

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

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Evaluator Certification: **Chris Kloski** — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
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(Also for newsletter distribution)