

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 23 Issue 3 May/June 2020

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

Notes from National

MI Camp COVID-19 Update P2

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PANDEMIC PRISONERS, UNITE!

Having a blast, learning new things, earning badges and titles and building the canine-human bond—these positive activities don't cease just because we're stuck at home!

Exciting summer plans are underway:

Get started with

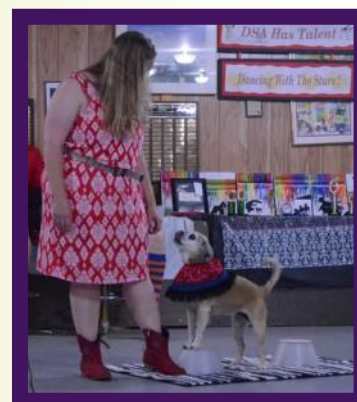
Goldy's 25th year Badge Discount (p3)

which also applies to our

Summer Badge Blast Contest (p4)

and continue with our soon-coming

Scrap the Summer 2020! event (p5)



Photos courtesy of Holy M. Green

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk P8-28

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
July 15th

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

A Message from the Michigan Dog Scout Camp Director

It's official. Sadly, we've had to cancel both the June and July camps this summer. We will be postponing them to the summer of 2021. This has been an agonizing decision to make. Concerts, sporting events, festivals everywhere are being cancelled—basically anywhere people would normally gather in groups. Some are cancelling events all the way into September, and particularly for those in high-risk categories, I think this is the safest route.

In the meantime, we're planning some "off camp" activities to involve people and to fundraise, to help offset the financial blow we are suffering by not being able to hold camps this year.

I would like to thank you for the outpouring of ideas and those who have volunteered to help with fundraising projects to protect DSA from this catastrophic economic failure that has affected most small businesses and non-profit organizations. We have had many people come forth with suggestions, many of which we're implementing.

If there's one positive in all of this, it is that this year we WERE going to celebrate our 25th summer of camps. In year zero, we held our first camp, so this year, we would have been adding our 25th tee shirt to our closet. Now, this will happen in 2021. Next year it will be our actual 25th anniversary for the existence of Dog Scouts as an organization, if you count years instead of camps. I know this has caused a lot of confusion in the past, so now, hopefully, people won't have to argue about which year it is. Next year will be our 25th year of holding camps, and it will also be our 25th year since we started.

Even though we can't be here together for the physical camps, we have some plans in the works for us to all have some fun with our dogs remotely. We are announcing a fundraiser this month that will be starting in July that I think you'll like. Read more about it in this newsletter.

Stay safe... Stay at home...
Wear your mask... Wash your hands...

Fondly,
Lonnie

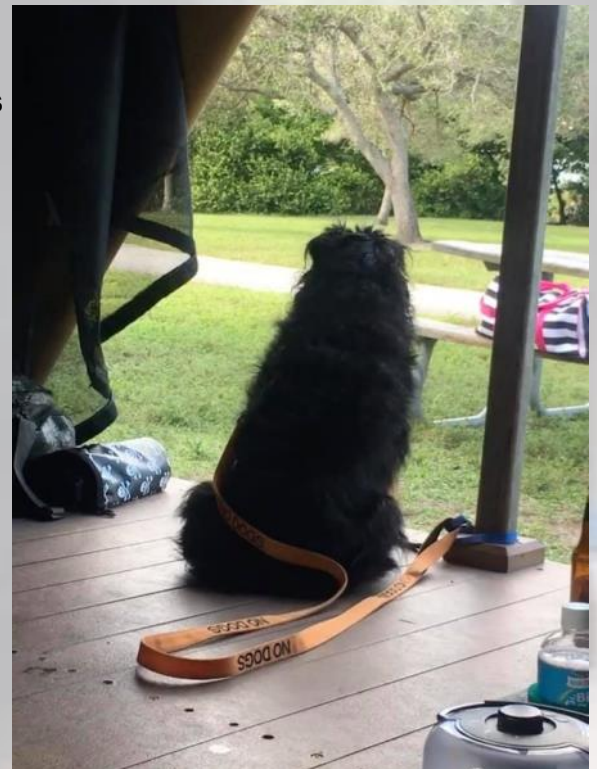


Photo courtesy of Linda Romano

25th Year Celebration!

by Sally Hoyle

Our year long celebration of our 25th year of camp continues, though since Michigan camps have been postponed at this point, we may celebrate our 25th year next year too. At any rate, we are continuing on with our celebration. As a reminder, on the 25th of each month we'll send an email to a 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!



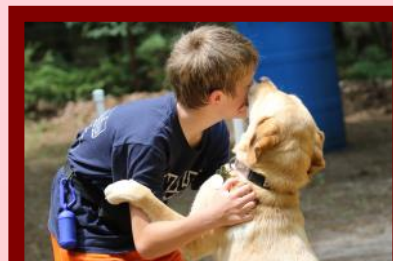
Our April 25 winner was **Kathy Tucker** from Texas and her dog Weston. Kathy and Weston were selected by random draw from all of those who have submitted and earned any of our Trail Dog titles this year. Their prize was a \$25 coupon that can be used for Westin's next title. I'm sure this will come in handy since Kathy and Weston were only 8 miles short of Weston's next title at the time of their win.

On May 25 we notified you by email that **you all are winners** this month. Due to a very generous offer by one of our members, every current DSA member who submits a badge form will receive a discount on the badge fees.

Here's a message from Goldy, Troop 101 about this offer:

"I wanted to thank DSA for the fun I have been having & things I've been learning. In honor of DSA's 25 years & the most unique year with the pandemic, I, Goldy Reid, would like to honor my sisters & cousins, Cassy, Ivy, Maple, & Autumn and all the Dog Scouts who have crossed the rainbow bridge. These are the ones who set the precedent to use positive training and learning through DSA, especially Ebony who was 13 when DSA came into our lives. She was able to visit the Michigan DSA camp location to help map out the trails but didn't have the opportunity to become a Dog Scout.

Beginning May 25, 2020, the next 100 badges turned in through December 25th will be discounted to DSA members 25% (costing your Mom or Dad only \$18.75), and I will pay the difference (\$6.25) to DSA. For each of those badges I will donate an additional 25% to DSA (another \$6.25, for a total of \$12.50) out of my treat fund (My vet says I eat too many so don't worry I'll still have enough). So get your Mom & Dad to have some fun with you and start turning in those badge forms."



Goldy & Bryson celebrating their Triathlon badge completion



Goldy's Piggy Bank has been raided!!

25th Year Celebration! (cont.)

We are very appreciative for what will be a VERY generous donation from Goldy and her mom!

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.

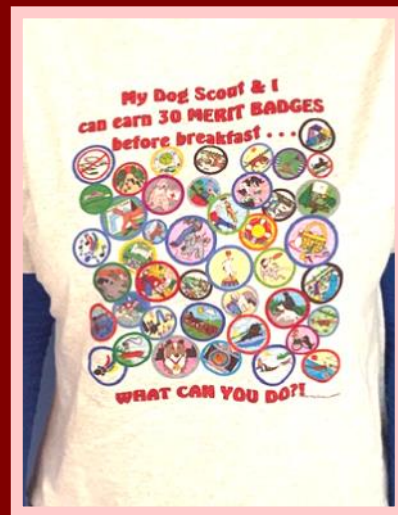
Summer Badge Blast Contest begins June 1!

by Sally Hoyle

We will be running a badge contest beginning June 1 and running through August 31! Just submit badge forms along with the appropriate videos, photos, logs and payment using our regular badge submission process <http://dogscouts.org/base/merit-badges/>. All badges that meet the requirements will be counted and the winners will be selected at the end of the contest period.

And we have some great prizes! The 1st place winner will receive the coveted "My Dog Scout & I can earn 30 merit badges before breakfast" t-shirt in the winner's desired size and color. This t-shirt is very special as it normally is available only through auctions held at camp, yet we are making an exception to use it as a prize for this contest. This shirt has been sold at auction for hundreds of dollars!

The 2nd place winner will receive badge coupons for 2 specialty merit badges (\$50 total value) so that the winning dog can continue his learning journey and focus on even more new skills. We have a great prize for 3rd place too, a \$25 gift certificate to the camp store.



If you are working with your dog on Trail Dog titles rather than merit badges, don't worry. We'll count any Trail titles as a part of this contest. Trail Dog titles should be submitted through the regular process

<http://dogscouts.org/base/dsa-titles/trail-dog-titles/> as managed by Kelly Ford.

There's something for every dog and the badge discount that's part of our 25th year contest will apply. That makes it easier than ever to get involved, learn something new and have lots of fun with your dog!

Any questions regarding the badge contest can be sent to DSAVideoEval@gmail.com.

I can't wait to see who will win! **Ready. Set. GO!**

Don't Just Stay at Home! Stay Alert & Stay Motivated with our soon-coming **Scrap the Summer 2020!** Fundraiser



Photo credit: Amy Porto

Are you beginning to feel like a pandemic prisoner? Do you want some help staying motivated in your training? Are you tired of working the same drills from your last training class—how many months ago was that now? Do you need some guidance in what to work on while your regular training facility is out of commission? Is your dog bored and driving you nuts wanting to do something fun? Are you missing interaction with like-minded dog lovers?

We want to try something new for the summer; not only will it be lots of fun but you'll get something special when we're

all done! There will be activities and games, crafts and new skills; building on your success and achievements is sure to bring thrills.

Your dog wants to play and accomplish new things, so we'll work together remotely and enjoy all the fun that this new challenge brings. We'll turn what could be a rotten summer into a celebration of growth and exploration, learning and enhancing of bonds, with the ingenuity and laughter we have come to love about Dog Scouts of America.

We hope you'll help us turn the summer of 2020 into one to remember—one for the books—for all the right reasons. Join us as we celebrate you, our members, finding joy in teamwork, partnership and preparation for when we can get together once again.

Watch for our soon-coming e-mail and Facebook posting where we'll share the details of the fundraiser and how to register.

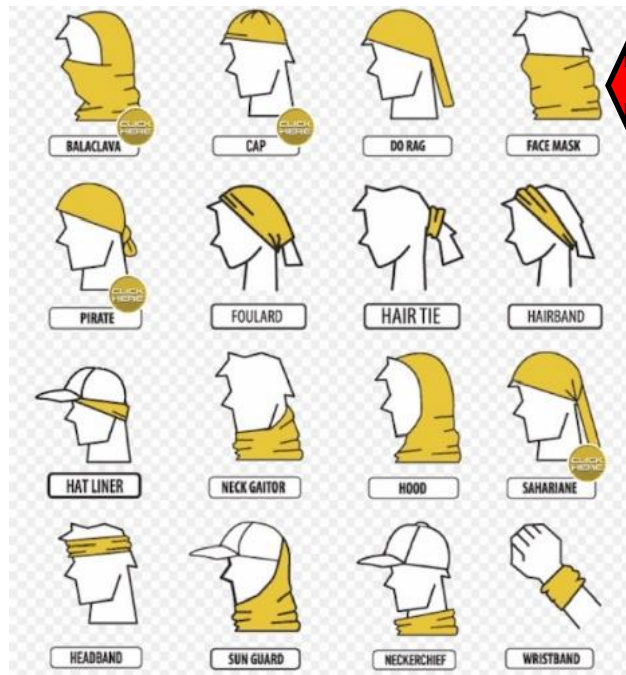
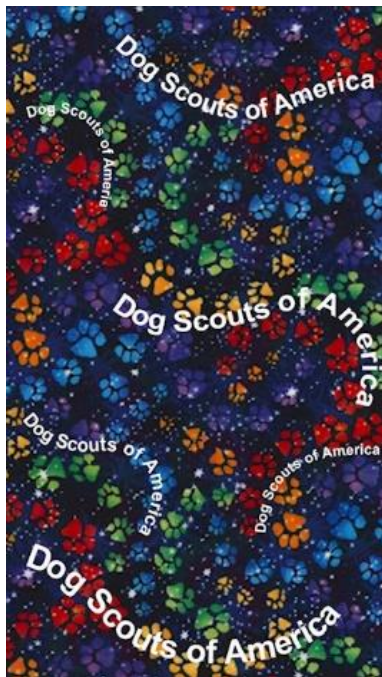
Get ready to Scrap the Summer 2020!

The Camp Store is OPEN!

By Lonnie Olson

Yes! The Camp Store is open for the season —<http://store.dogscouts.org/> - and we have these great items for you to consider:

Our Sunshield multipurpose head cover works very well as a face mask, and we've been selling a lot of them. They're only \$10.00 each and have beautiful pawprints in every color imaginable throughout the design, along with some white stars, and the words, "Dog Scouts of America" woven through the design.



Note the fourth drawing shows use as a face mask.

Also, our reorder of the RED "I Love My Dog Scout" socks has arrived! These socks are custom made for DSA, and feature several of our DSA merit badge graphics, and the words "I ♥ My Dog Scout". Not only that, they are the most comfortable, durable socks you'd ever want!

They are available only in women's size 9-11, and they are \$9.50

These items and more can be purchased at

<http://store.dogscouts.org/>



This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

Our calendar features in this year's newsletters are resulting in submissions for the 2021 calendar. We want to be sure to include dogs from all areas so we need your photos to make next year's calendar the best yet!

Our May feature this year focuses on Troop 119 Texas. Troop Leaders Mart & Cindy Ratliff started this troop after attending camp in Michigan. They attended area dog events with their dogs in uniform to recruit members and had 3 people attend the Troop's first meeting. They hosted the first Texas mini-camp in 2004. After that the troop grew quickly becoming the largest in the country. The 16th Texas mini-camp was held in 2019 and the camp has averaged 54 campers each year for the past 10 years. This troop is quite active and they enjoy community projects, learning new things and teaching and playing with their dogs.



Sometimes we are able to discover new talents in our dogs through participation in DSA activities, and the month of June focuses on some of those dogs. At a young age Kismet Olson showed a true talent for painting. It's a skill she learned quite easily and is something that she continues to enjoy doing.

Hemi Parker's friendliness was always evident. DSA helped him to focus that friendliness into helping others and he is now a Therapy Dog who spreads joy; he is shown in the 2020 calendar visiting with tireless first responders.

Sam Hoyle is also a Therapy Dog and his natural talent for this work was clearly evident early in his life. He is very empathetic and seems to know just who needs him most and what they need. On therapy visits to the local hospital, he takes the lead and shows his mom where to go first. Sam's sister and litter mate Katie is a Service Dog and DSA has helped her to learn new skills and ways to help her mom (me). Are all the talents these dogs have the result of nature or nurture? We believe the answer is both, and clearly DSA has helped them to further develop their natural talents so that they can bring joy to and help others.

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!

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Patience and Practice: Keys To Mastering A New Sport

By Elizabeth Nado (Troop 188)

My year 15 month old Stabyhoun, Breeze, loves to run! In fact he would fly if he could. He does everything with enthusiasm whether it's running, eating, licking your face, or sleeping - with style. As this cool dude's guardian I try to keep his growing joints safe but he needs an "active" activity. He enjoys water - playing with the hose, swimming and boating. So I thought dock diving would be a natural, easy choice.

Wrong! Did he forget he loves water? Was it the metal pool ramp? His first lessons were as fun as trying to bathe a cat! He refused to climb the stairs, gripped onto the decking like superglue and climbed up anyone standing nearby. But with persistence and a few weeks of patience he slowly came around. The instructor could take him out into the pool and he would quickly paddle back to the ramp. At last he started jumping off the ramp after a squeaky tennis ball. One time I picked up the ball and just threw it off the dock. Breeze jumped right in after it - shocking me, the instructor and perhaps himself! We spent a few weeks becoming a team - I'd practice throwing the toy the right distance and letting it go at precisely the moment he reaches the end of the dock. And Breeze would practice running as fast as he could and leaping with abandon.

I'm so glad we entered the last North American Diving Dogs competition. My son accompanied us and we made a great team: Breeze straining to get into the water, Nick holding him back and me just throwing the toy far enough to let Breeze fly! And FLY he does! He uses the entire length of the dock to get up speed then leaps without any hesitation into the pool - it's a joy to watch. A dog doing what he loves! I'm so lucky to be able to experience this with him.

The sport of dock diving is not for everyone. It is not offered everywhere. It is fairly expensive. There are some physical requirements of the handler. And it takes time, practice and patience. But if your dog loves it then it is all worth it.

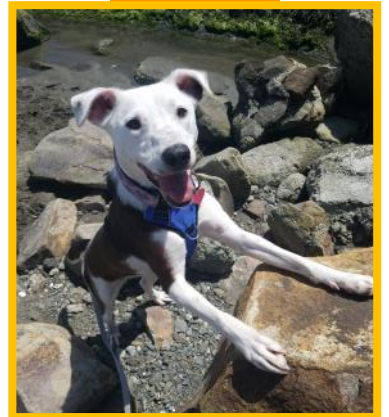


Scout Scoop (cont.)

The **Stig** and I completed our TD on 4/24/2020 and are working on our next title along with the FLT50. Stig is a retired therapy dog. She started having seizures three months ago. We found DSA and realized there are a lot of things we can be doing. She also competes in Noseworks and Scentsports. She has two AKC trick dog titles and is just a happy fluffy girl!
Jo Ann Dombeck, NY



Pearl has been to the beach and worked on desensitizing and some basic obedience skills.
Dawn Nystrom , CA



Belle and I are working towards her DSA title. The last thing we have to teach her is heel, and we're starting to work on it. We're also teaching her some tricks and other commands so she can be well prepared for her CGC test and therapy dog class. She's going to be a therapy dog at the cancer unit my mom is a patient at. Once the quarantine is over, I want to start geocaching and it would be super fun to get Belle into it and earn Geocaching 1, 2, and 3! Hopefully we can get some local pup friends to join DSA so Belle and I are not the only DSA members in Delaware.
Kaitlin Johnsen, DE



While we are finishing up our DSA title (only two more videos to go – but we need people to do that!), **Ziva** and I have been working puzzles. Attached are two of our faves from her twice-weekly Dog Twister puzzle from Nina Ottosson. Ziva loves this puzzle (and others). It exercises her nose and her mind. Keeping her out of trouble is a priority – Ziva is a red tri Aussie. Occupying her takes time.
Marsha Lindquist, AZ



New Troop Welcome!

In April we welcomed our newest official Dog Scouts Troop—Troop 243, lead by Troop Leader Renea Dahms—CONGRATULATIONS, Renea!

Troop 243—Dog Scouts of Central WI—is based out of Renea's training facility—[Pawsitively Unleashed!](https://www.pawsitivelyunleashed.com) located in Stevens Point, but membership is open to all interested dog parents in the Central Wisconsin area.

Current troop affiliates are avid competitors in ScentWork and Flyball and many do Parkour with their dogs as well.

Renea is a Certified Dog Behavior Technologist with the Association of Animal Behavior Professionals, a Professional member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers. As well as a Canine Fitness & Nutrition Specialist and Canine Conditioning Fitness Coach/Certified Trick Dog Instructor (Do More With Your Dog).



Photo Source: <https://www.pawsitivelyunleashed.com/about-us.html>



Photo Source: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1412564232276308/>

While the Stay-At-Home orders have slowed down the troop's launch a little, Renea scheduled Treibball for the end of May and Parkour in June. The Troop is working on a June date to discuss the steps to earning the Dog Scout title along with planning the Troop's activity for the remainder of 2020.

Renea's goal is to grow a HUGE and fun troop, so that they can have tons of fun with their dogs and earn badges for doing it!

We're looking forward to future updates from Troop 243 as the vision and mission of Dog Scout of America reaches more dog parents in Wisconsin.

To be a member of Troop 243 you will need to be a member of Dog Scouts of America. You are allowed 2 meetings/outings before joining.

Check out www.facebook.com/groups/2488115671251843/



Photo Source: <https://www.facebook.com/events/202113940768934/>

Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trailblazers

Fay Reid—Troop Leader

Pre-Stay Safe, Stay Home – Troop 101 was working on the Manners, Scent Discrimination, K9 Fitness, Disaster Preparedness, Tricks, Clean up America, and K9 Nutrition badges.

K9 Fitness – Goldy has completed, working on it are Booker Keel, Jax & Molly Long.

Disaster Preparedness – We are almost done with, Goldy has checked off on her part, I just need to submit mine.

Canine Actor – If I ever get the video editing figured out, Goldy has already been checked off her parts, its me that's the holdup.

K9 Nutrition badge – We are also working on finishing this which we started with Goldy & Autumn in 2018 with a yard sale.

Clean Up America (both)
– working on Goldy Reid, Booker Keel, Molly & Jax Long

Autumn Reid – Golden Retriever
Goldy Reid – Yellow Labrador
Molly Long – Black Labrador
Jax Long – English Setter

We have a new pup in our troop, Scallywag Olson



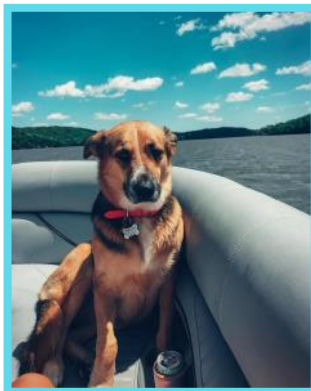
Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

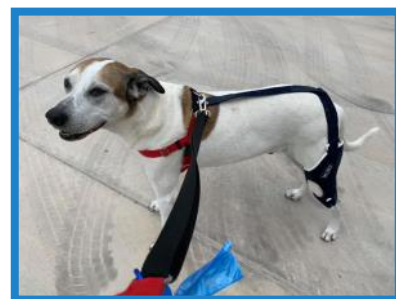
Like most everyone else, our troop's spring has not been at all what we would have ever imagined!

With the "Safe at Home" orders in our area, we had to cancel our March troop meeting and have not been able to get together since. While we are all looking forward to when we can get back together with our troop friends, Troop 119 members are still making the best of things with their best friends.

Many of our troop dogs have been able to enjoy extra outdoor adventures like walking and sniffing new places.



Oakley Whatley has been able to visit state parks and go boating.



Sebastian Phillips, even while recovering from a knee injury, has been strapping on his knee brace and still enjoying walks while racking up miles on his WoofTrax for DSA!



Keenan & Jet Severns have been enjoying new locations (complete with Texas Bluebonnets!),

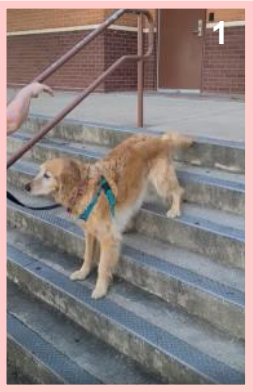
Alex & Stevie Ray Ratliff have been finding new parks for their sniffy walks,



and Lacey Callahan has been helping to clean up while on her walks.



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



Many of our troop dogs including ¹Alex Ratliff, ²Blitzen & ³Westen Tucker & ⁴Tripoli Paxson have been working on elements for the Parkour merit badge.



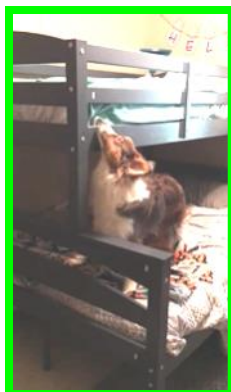
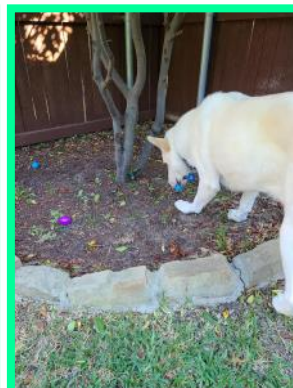
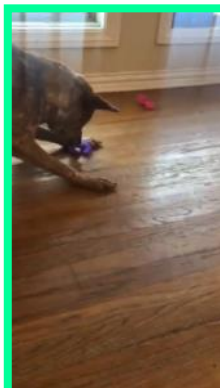
Darra Freeman & Stella Romano's moms set up backyard agility equipment for them to work on



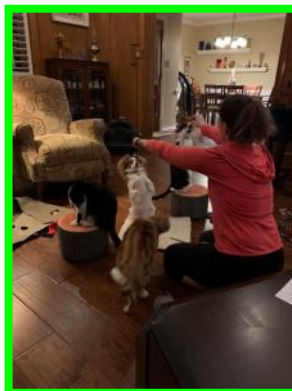
and Oakley Whatley has been trying out biking with her mom!

Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

Unfortunately, our annual troop Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for April and had to be cancelled, but Lacey Callahan, Waffle Nava, Lincoln Hamilton & Alex & Stevie Ray Ratliff all got to have private egg hunts in their homes and yards. They missed their friends but were happy to find the eggs still contained treats, regardless of the location!



Waffle Nava & Wyatt Barnes have been practicing their scent work,



Gizmo Ackerman & Tripoli Paxson have been working on their tricks



and Sebastian Phillips has been working on his Sign Language badge!

Along with virtual & zoom meetings for the humans, some folks are participating in other virtual activities.



Harper Parrigin-Clark participated with her mom in her mom's workplace zoom pet parade! They dressed up in Mardi Gras colors and performed tricks for the parade. We're guessing Harper was the star of the whole parade!

Lacey Callahan participated in a virtual Cowtown 5K-9 race and enjoyed modeling her buff that she got from registering for the event.

Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

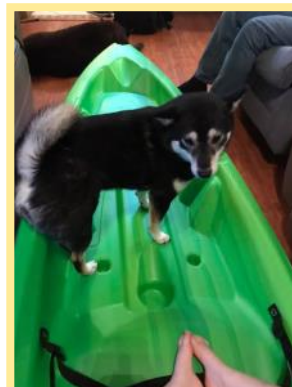
Several of our troop trainers, including Cheryl Woolnough & Karen Deeds, have been offering online classes.



Waffle Nava & his mom “attended” Karen’s online class on “settle” and he was rocking it at home doing his homework with a variety of distractions.

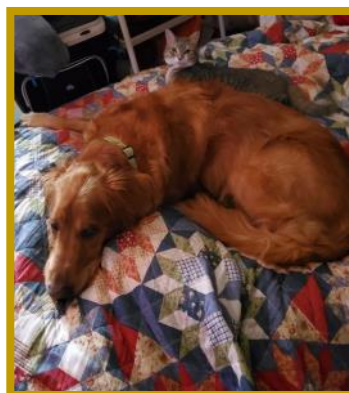
Cheryl has an upcoming class on making homemade dog treats and “pill pockets” that troop members are looking forward to.

While all of our troop dogs are looking forward to getting out and being able to do more things, Kira Kitsune Franczek is really looking forward to the new kayak her mom bought for her!!



Besides all the fun with our dogs, some of our members are also doing what they can to help the current situation, like Nita Lanter, who has been making close to 400 face masks and donating them to people on the front lines of the virus situation!

We are looking forward to when we can hang out with our human and canine friends again.



In the meantime, Oakley reminds everybody to be safe and healthy so she can get back to doing her therapy visits again!

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Wow the last 2 months have been unprecedented with the COVID19 restrictions require everyone to shelter in place and having limited opportunity to get out with our pups. However, what Troop 157 did was spend some quality one-on-one time with their pups, find opportunities to do virtual activities or participate in car drive by parades to wish someone a Happy Birthday/Happy Graduation.



Plus, we were lucky to have one of our troop members Linda Romano who took it upon herself to make facial masks from material she had on hand or others gave to her. Once she made them, she alerted our entire troop they were available, delivered some while practicing social distancing and placed them outside her front door for people to swing by to get them. This was so nice since it was difficult at best to find a facial mask when the restrictions required everyone to wear a facial mask when in public places like grocery shopping.

While it wasn't a very active quarter for us, we all came together via Facebook, private message or otherwise to stay connected. We also promoted some virtual social distancing activities from the DSA Facebook page and COACH4PAWS.






Social Distancing Bucket List For Dogs (List 3)

- Practice leave its
- Play find the stinky sock
- Play sit-stand-sit or down-stand-down at every door in the house
- Teach go to mat/bed
- Shape get in a box
- Try a new Kong stuffer recipe
- Go on a hike
- Take a photo with spring flowers
- Play in a mud puddle
- Find a letterbox
- Play with your favorite toy
- Learn 2 feet on an object


Discover a Simple Way To Do Canine Fitness

WOOFOUT GENERATOR

Free Access for 30 Days
Starting Today! Woof!
#weareinthistogether




GET WOOFOUT! MARK AS COMPLETE



Digging
Front Limb Exercise

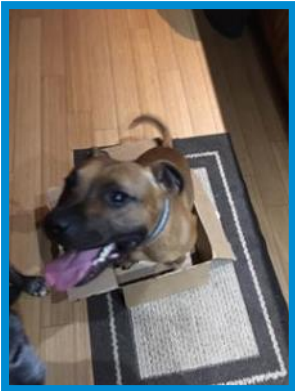


Regular Sit
Back Limb Exercise



Balance Two Disc
Core Exercise

Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Troop 183—FL

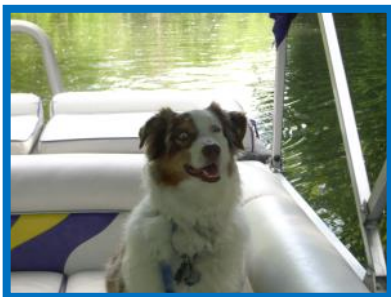
Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

APRIL ACTIVITY AXED

We had planned for a picnic and boat ride with some scent work and/or tracking at a local park. However, while we would have met the Florida requirements for less than 10 people, and could have stayed a 6ft leash length away from each other, we have found on individual trips out with our dogs that the general public are not so good about keeping their distance when a cute dog appears in front of them, and decided it was better to not be out collectively in public.

So how have troop members kept busy?

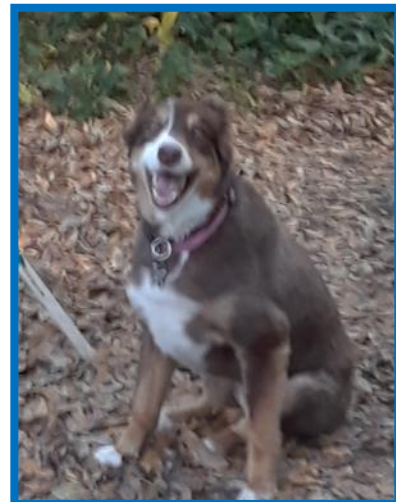
Jeannette and David with Annie and Ariea:



Annie has been kept busy watching for and barking at the mailman, twice daily! She has taught our new dog, Ariea, to bark at the mailman too - although Ariea doesn't have a clue what is going on (yet). Annie has been going out on the boat to enjoy the weather. Ariea got to go once, but she's too interested in swimming (generally not a safe activity in Florida lakes).

Annie had a bad April. She was at the vet for a biopsy on her lip when bloodwork showed some of her liver values were off an incredible amount. A sonogram a few days later showed a mass on her liver about 3". Five days later - we had to wait for pathology and a weekend - she had surgery to remove the mass. Either it was hiding from the sonogram or it grew very quickly, but at the time of removal the mass was the size of a grapefruit. Because of the size and location Annie had to stay two nights in the hospital. Once again we waited for the biopsy. It is cancer and the vet only got a 1 mm margin. Annie is 12 sometime this year, either already, or soon, and it is a slow growing cancer so they feel that something other than the cancer recurrence will ultimately cause her death. She's a little weak still from the surgery, we are slowly increasing her walks. But eating and drinking good and happy with the world. We're hoping that she'll be able to get back to hydrotherapy soon as she has lost a lot of strength in her rear legs, one of which has had two hip operations and doesn't function properly. However, we are very fortunate we had the biopsy planned for her lip (that came back benign) since the liver tumor could have ruptured and bled out. We consider ourselves very lucky!

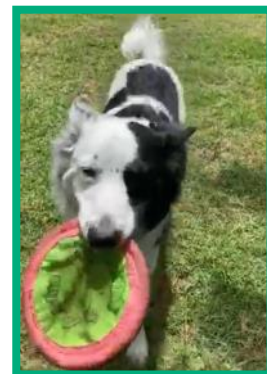
In March we adopted Ariea who turns five this week. Ariea is a very tall Aussie! She measures 25" which is taller than the AKC for male Aussies and her beautiful red coat is finally starting to grow back after having to be shaved due to matting 3 months ago. She was an owner surrender due to some serious, long-term health conditions in the immediate family of her original pet parents. Ariea and her sibling were used to having acreage to run on, but while both dogs were loved, they didn't get much socialization or training. Ariea is still learning to live in a house and it seems she is finally getting comfortable and feeling that she belongs. She comes when called and we are working on basic obedience: sit, leave it and go outside. Even though she's five she's still very much a puppy mentally, always playing with toys or bringing them to us to throw for her. I've noticed now that she and Annie will bump noses, so they seem to be bonding. Ariea has learned the sheer joy of walking and going out in the neighborhood to sniff around. On the plus side, Ariea's former pet parent thinks that she'll be able to better care for and keep Ariea's sibling as she's calmed down a lot since becoming an only dog.



Troop 183—FL (cont.)

Mary Ann, Bling and LeeRoy

I have stayed home since the beginning of March, but we did participate in the Dog Scouts Toilet Paper Challenge video, and Bling at almost 11 years old still loves retrieving – so I throw whatever he brings me . . . when it's not toilet paper, he makes do with his frisbee.



Shirley, Nim and Tachi



I finally pulled together my videos and submitted them so Nim & Tachi earned their Scent Discrimination merit badges and Nim also earned her backpacking badge. I found 3 new hiking trails in my area and dragged my family members out with me to try them. We didn't get very far on one of the trails as we saw a stray pup and took the time to catch her then lead her to a location where Animal Control could meet us to take custody of her. I signed up for a scent work class via Facebook – although I haven't been able to keep up with the homework assignments, what I have been learning has been useful and shown some gaps in my training that I now have some drills to go back and work on. Some of our troop started working on the Novice Rally FrEe signs, but we realized our dogs need more handler focus around distractions, so our lessons have shifted gear towards addressing that. We're still interested in Rally FrEe and we use the signs in our lessons, but we see that unless we have our dog's attention, we're not going to get sufficient teamwork to make Rally FrEe enjoyable. Practicing Rally FrEe at home every now and then, Nim is becoming more comfortable working on my right side, and Tachi's "bang" on verbal cue is becoming more consistent, although sometimes he says he didn't quite understand what I said, and he offers adaptations of the behavior I'm looking for which makes me laugh.

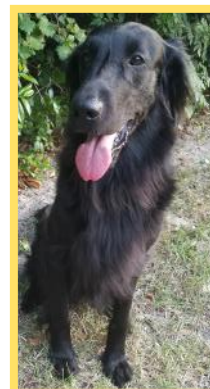
Amy, Marvin and Sandy



We're working on recall and "leave it" for both Marvin and Sandy so they leave the errant Gopher tortoise alone. Marvin is working on switching sides for Rally FrEe heeling, along with rehab exercises for his stifle assigned by his Rehab vet. We adopted Sandy last month and Mark has been teaching her the basics: attention, impulse control, leave it, socialization, sit, down, stay, recall, and how awesome being a lap-dog! We carry treats around with us all the time to capture appropriate behaviors that we want her to repeat. For this picture Marvin and Sandy had to sit and stay for at least a minute while I took multiple pictures! Good dogs!

Cyndi and Jurnee

I, Jurnee, was asked to do window visits at a local rehab center. I put a lot of smiles of the residents faces even though I couldn't figure out why the residents kept tapping on the window at me. I can't get any treats or rubs like that, either! So it wasn't as much fun as when I can go in. Mom made 30 mask for residents at another local Rehab Center. And we went for a walk with my friend Tachi and the Marvin's new housemate, Sandy when mom picked up some material donated by Marvin's mom. My mom enrolled us in an online scent class and obedience class. We do weekly Rally practices and mom's also joined some Susan Garrett lady's "Home School the Dog" program. I had fun hiking a new location with my friends Marvin, Sandy, and Nim one evening instead of practicing Rally FrEe, it was interesting to smell all the things on the pathway, but it was hot!



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

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

We missed our submission for the March/April Scoop, and like most of the country we have been staying at home to help flatten the curve, so these are pictures and news we are sharing from mid-January thru the beginning of March.

Our group is sad to say we lost a wonderful member Roxy the German Shephard in February. Always up for a good time and eager for an adventure, Roxy was one of the attendees of our first annual Dog Scout Camp weekend back in 2015. Right is a picture of mom Anna with Roxy pulling his hooman cousin in the Morgan Hill Lighted Christmas parade, Roxy was a wonderful family member and a true credit to Dog Scouts. We miss you Roxy and will be looking for you on the other side.



Our group would also like to share some happy news and acknowledge three of our members who have some great accomplishments to share. First is Asia the newest Dog Scout in our Troop. Mom Jackie and Asia completed the final requirements of the Dog Scout test on our Santana Mall Walk with our Scout Master Donna. Here is Jackie commemorating the occasion with a snap of her graduate. Congratulations Asia and Jackie!



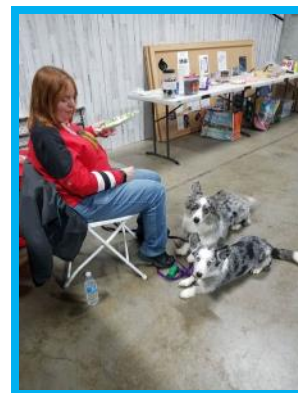
Our group also wants to congratulate Cadette Memphis and mom Debee on obtaining Memphis's certification as a therapy pet with Love On a Leash. Way to go team! Their next goal is to get their Dog Scout Title.



Last, but certainly not least, is Rusty who received word that his has earned his Retrieving Badge! Here is a picture of Rusty with sister June, Rusty is on the right. Congratulations to Rusty and mom Jackie, great job guys!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On January 28th Troop 198 held their monthly meeting at Sports Basement in Campbell. Here is Patty with Dog Scout Crystal and Cadet Sprocket.



Cadet Kokoro tells mom Denise and Scout Master Donna her views on the number of treats required for training purposes.



Kate chats with Bob as Cadet Cora and Cadet Odin get ready to make another run at the refreshment table.

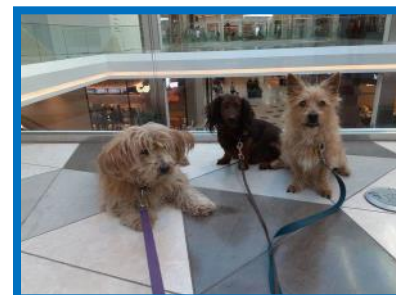


Bob and Debee with Golden Cadets Dayton, Maxwell and Memphis are joined by Dog Scout Duncan as the meeting gets underway.



On Feb 2nd Troop 198 had their monthly mall walk about training at Santana Row in San Jose.

Here is Cadet June, Cadet Tacoma and Dog Scout Rusty practicing sit/stay while they pose for a picture.



Dog Scout Asia and Cadet Rebel take a seat in the mall courtyard.



Cadet Elton enjoys sitting in the sun at the mall.



Stopping to take a group shot on the walk, from left to right is Cadet Sadie, Dog Scout Wyatt, Scout Master Donna, Dog Scout Duncan and first timers Toni and Pretzel.



After the walk, Dog Scouts Palo and Duncan hang out with Scout Master Donna, Leah and Dog Scout Wyatt



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On February 9th Troop 198 had their monthly Dog Scout Training. Here is Cadet Tribble doing a chill while watching his mom Blake work with big brother Yeti on training.



Blake works with Cadet Yeti on the Leave it with Critter skill with honorary Cadet Gus the Guinea Pig.



On March 1st Troop 198 had their monthly Mall Walk About Training. Cadet Sadie with mom Lennie front and center vocalizes a welcome to Cadet JJ and mom Sandy.



During the walk, mom Jackie lets Cadet Rebel investigate the water fountain in the courtyard



Stretch looks up at dad Rod wondering what's the joke and will it involve treats in any way.



Dog Scouts Wyatt & Duncan are getting older and are grateful mom brings along a doggie stroller, so they get to participate in the activities without overdoing it on their older joints.

Here at our favorite spot to stop on the walk and take a group shot we have left to right, Stretch, Wyatt, Leah, Duncan, Donna, Rebel, Sadie, Sandy with JJ, Janet with Molly and Kokoro all looking great!



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Troop 237 put on a presentation called Canine Enrichment – Much More Than Toys and Tennis Balls at Metro Dog in Richmond which was held on multiple days over two months. Right is a group shot at the beginning of the series.



One of the demonstrations put on by Ruth the Troop leader was how to use a Flirt Pole. The rope goes through the pole and on the end of the rope is a ball or toy. This lets you engage the dog to jump and chase the toy without the dog jumping on you. A great way to exercise tire out your dog.



Here Christy is working on strengthening Pearl's core muscles.



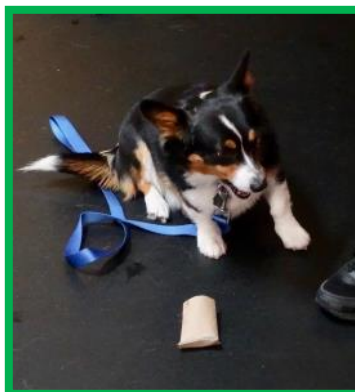
Charlie is watching Sadie figure out how to open the box and get to the treat, great mental stimulation.



Lulu is showing how to sit and put one paw in a box.



Sparky is showing how to put all four paws in a box!



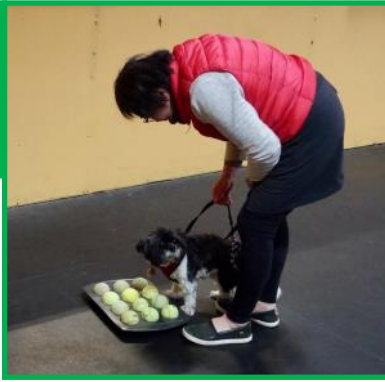
Thatcher is getting ready to find the treat that is hidden in the paper tube.



Carol and Sadie are working on heel weaving in and out of cones.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Marilyn is encouraging Porter to find the treat hidden under the ball in the muffin tin game ;



Charlie looks at Kim as she engages Ruby in the muffin tin game ;



Rose and Sparky practice heel weaving through the cones;



Kim and Ruby heel through the cones with out a leash, what professionals!

Chriss and Toby take a minute to relax and bond during the activities;



Kristie and Dog Scout Maurice enjoy playing the muffin tin game ;



Kobi is happy to take his turn at the muffin tin game once Maurice is done.

We have not had any physical gatherings since the first weekend in March, we are sheltering in place and keeping tabs on each other, helping each other get through the days until we can all be together again. Community another AMAZING reason to belong to Dog Scouts. Stay well and be safe!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

As a troop, we've been doing our best to stay connected to one another even though we haven't been able to get together. This time has been a bit tough on our dogs since they can't do the things they usually do. No classes, no trials and no therapy visits. But they have benefited from spending more time with their humans. Troop member Michelle Neu put it this way about the time she's been spending with 9 month old Pumpkin, "This is one of the few good things to come from this unsettled time. Our bond is getting stronger."



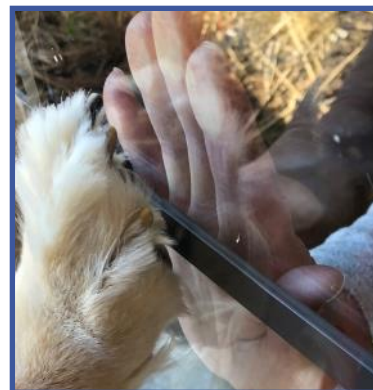
Shelby Benson

Michelle has been working from home like many of our members have. Shelby Benson has been a great workday companion for mom Julie. And here at the Hoyle home Sam never fails to get Julie to take a break by reminding her that he'd like a midday walk.

Sam really struggled with this lockdown at first. The two things he likes to do most – going to the office with Julie and visiting at the local VA hospital – were suddenly forbidden. He's doing much better now that the weather has warmed up and we can get outside. He now takes lots of walks and cheers up people in the neighborhood with his goofy antics, even though no one is allowed to pet him. Social distancing just isn't his thing.

Several of our therapy dogs have been doing window visits at nursing homes and rehab facilities.

Darby Jones doesn't understand why she can't go inside or get some petting but she sure cheers people up when she touches them through the window. Barrie Lynn Wood also has been taking her dogs Bam Bam and Moose for window visits. She says that people smile at her but it's the dogs that they really want to see.



New Dog Scouts Pumpkin Neu (left)
and Bam Bam Wood

Many of our troop members have been working on badges at home, focusing on things that they can do on their own. We've had a number of people working on Disaster Prep, K9 Nutrition, Tricks, Naked Dog Obedience, Backpacking, Hiking, Letterboxing and Parkour. And we have two new Dog Scouts since we've been in lockdown. Bam Bam Wood and Pumpkin Neu are some of our youngest members at just 9 months old, and both finished their Dog Scout Certification by video. We are all so proud of our new Scouts!

Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Mackenzie and Moose both love learning new tricks!

Many of us have been working on Trick Dog titles with our coach Barrie Lynn Wood thru the Facebook group, Canine Connection Trick Spark Team. Pumpkin has earned her Novice, Intermediate and Advanced titles. Mackenzie has earned her Novice, Intermediate and Advanced titles and is working on Expert. Katie worked through Novice and is now focusing on Intermediate. The process is a little harder for her since her sight is so limited. Barrie Lynn worked with a different coach to take Moose all the way through the Expert Level and Bam Bam has worked through Advanced and is now focusing on Expert Tricks. More troop members have joined the group and are just getting started. It's really been quite a bit of fun and has helped to keep everyone active.

Here's what Barrie Lynn said about her experience in leading this group. "What I thought would be helpful to others has been so rewarding to me. I not only get to watch dogs do tricks, I get to watch the process of them really connecting with their handlers, building confidence, trust, limb awareness. I watch their owners looking forward to the challenge, being motivated, having goals, getting up and out of bed, moving forward. I see the team celebrating each other and encouraging each other. It truly has helped me through one of the most difficult times of my life and I am ever so grateful. We have many on the team who are there just to watch, to share, and to enjoy the dogs."



Leah (left) at the dog park and new little brother Simba as he gets ready to go

Those of us who have been working as a part of this group are VERY appreciative of Barrie Lynn's efforts as she's worked very hard to evaluate the many videos that have been posted to the group.

The Siporin family has been having quite a bit of fun with the newest member of the family, Simba, a 6 month old Beagle. Older sister Leah has been showing Simba the ropes at the dog park and the whole family has been enjoying getting outside and enjoying the spring weather.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Other than that everyone has been doing a lot of hiking. Martha has been taking Riley to walk on the nearby golf course. Sam, Katie and Mackenzie have been logging miles in our neighborhood and on Sunday mornings in a state park close to home. And Diane has combined hiking with Sky as is working on finishing up Sky's first letterboxing badge.



Pictured from left, Riley loves the golf course even with a few May snowflakes, Diane and Sky are really enjoying letterboxing, and Martha and Maia enjoying a hike.

I hope that everyone out there is doing okay. I know has been really challenging for everyone, especially first responders, health care workers and other essential workers. If you are one of those people who has been working throughout this crisis, whether you are stocking shelves, delivering packages or seeing patients please know that you are appreciated!

As one of our members recently said to me, "Thank God for dogs!! I can only imagine how much more difficult this entire pandemic would be without them." I'm sure we all agree.



Maia says "Thanks!"
to all the first
responders

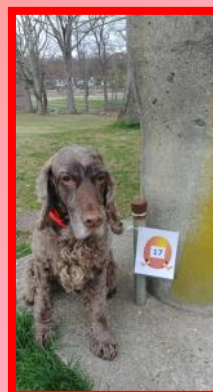
Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

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

We are separated during this time, but we are still working towards our individual goals and staying in touch with each other.

Lori and Wyatt have accumulated 119.30 miles towards his UT 750 title. They have been very busy staying fit. They are quite the pair of hiking buddies. They picked up 21 bags of abandoned dog poop. They found two (2) letterboxes and are now almost done with Wyatt's LBE title!

They discovered 1 Geocache Travel Bug. Wyatt and Lori participated in a Virtual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the City of Groton CT. They have hiked an amazing THREE (3) new places (Eastern Point Beach Park (while egg hunting!), Thach Preserve, Banningwood Preserve).



Zora, Dani and I have been revisiting trails that are old favorites. We have found 18 geocaches in the last two months. We did several different loops at the Tri Town Forest which is a large property with several miles of trails with varying difficulty. We have explored sections of Barn Island which is a wetland area with extensive trails and packed with geocaches.



Dani has been practicing playing in the mud which is her favorite thing to do.

We are impressed with how polite everyone is when we pass them on the trails. CT trails have never closed as a result of the pandemic so parking areas have been very full. But people have been very polite and friendly.

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

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

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)