

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America Volume 24 Issue 1 January/February 2021

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



Mighty Dirk Maus recently helped his mom, Stephanie, pack out 22 bags of pet waste found along a local trail! Poeeey! Poeeey! Poeeey!!!!

Well done Stephanie & Dirk!

Notes from National

- Turkey Trot Update P2
- DSA 25th Year Celebration Winners P3

**Scout Scoop
& Troop Talk
P4-23**

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
March 15th

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

Sparky's 6th Annual Turkey Trot & Mile Gobbler

See Scout Scoop & Troop Tales for additional participants



A few hardy souls got together from Troop 149 to complete the Turkey Trot and to finish the 3 mile requirement for the Backpacking Badge



Senior, Ruby Damm has participated in all 6 Turkey Trots



**Annual
Troop 219
Turkey
Trot 2020**

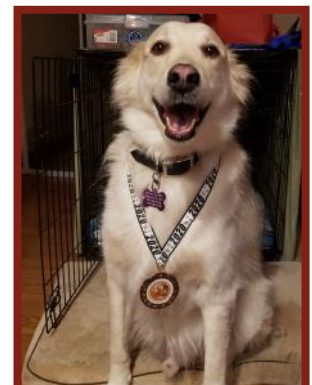


Troop 219: Nadene, Lori, Laura, and dog Cody (top) along with Lori and Wyatt (bottom)

Thank you!
Your registrations
and donations
raised
over \$3,200
for DSA



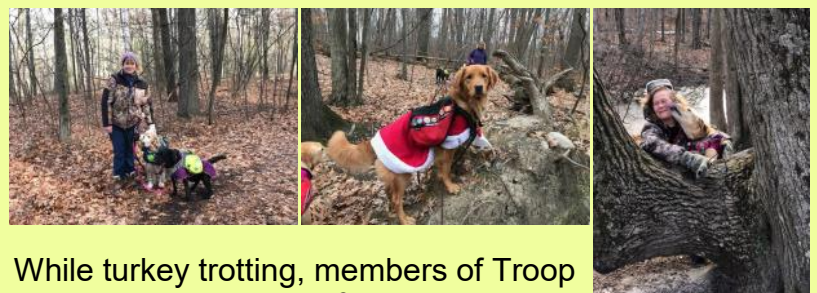
Mighty Dirk Maus Ensley



Tucker P Russell is proud to show off his Turkey Trot medal



Reveille Schmitt got her medal and patch



While turkey trotting, members of Troop 101, Kaylene with Jax & Molly, Walden Webber and Fay with Goldy, threw in a little letterboxing, geocaching & parkour!

25th Year Celebration Winners

By Sally Hoyle

Our 25th year celebration wrapped up at the end of December with two big winners! We had always intended to select our December winner from those who had dogs that became Dog Scouts in 2020. However, because we had such a large group of new Dog Scouts we decided that we would select two winners for the month. Both winners received a \$25 badge coupon that can be used towards any of our Specialty Merit badges. This will help them to continue their DSA journey, learn some new skills and show off their achievements by submitting for another badge.

Our final 2020 winners were

Michelle Neu
and Pumpkin
from Taylor, MI



and Kaylyn Berryman
and Rylie
from Kilgore, TX.

Both Pumpkin and Rylie have already earned some Specialty Merit badges and we can't wait to see what they do next!

**Congratulations once again to all of our 2020 winners.
Thank you to everyone for your continued support of DSA,
and for staying active throughout 2020.**

	Name (Dog)	Troop	Selection Criteria	Prize
January	Laurie Mieham and Sirius	161	25 th online membership renewal in 2020	\$25 Badge Coupon
February	Kristen Standstede and Arrow	240	Random draw of those who completed and submitted 2019 Troop Reporting	\$25 Camp Store GC
March	Robyn Porter and Hallie	177	Random draw from those who had a dog earn a badge in 2020	Gift Basket courtesy of Pet Supplies Plus
April	Kathy Tucker and Westen	119	Random draw from those who had a dog earn a Trails Title in 2020	\$25 Trails Title Coupon
May	All Members			25% badge discount courtesy of Goldy Reid and her treat budget
June	Regina Battley and Paisley	230	25 th order placed through Spring T-shirt Promo	Microfiber floor mat courtesy of Pet Supplies Plus
July	Diane Cranston and Sky	217	25 th person to register for Scrap the Summer 2020	Custom Tapestry
August	Sonja Klattenberg and Frankie	No Troop	25 th order placed through the Face-mask Fundraiser	DSA Tote Bag filled with logo merchandise
September	Cheryl Nava and Waffle	119	Random draw from all Scrap the Summer 2020 participants	\$25 Badge Coupon
October	Marsha Lindquist and Ziva	No Troop	Random draw from all Turkey Trot participants	DSA Fanny Pack filled with logo merchandise
November	Pat Hallemeier, Harpo and Mango	149	Random draw from all Turkey Trot participants	Custom Tapestry
December	Michelle Neu and Pumpkin	217	Random draw from those who had a dog become a Dog Scout in 2020	\$25 Badge Coupon
December	Kaylyn Berryman and Rylie	No Troop	Random draw from those who had a dog become a Dog Scout in 2020	\$25 Badge Coupon

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Adopting Molly

Lonnie Olson

One of the newest members of my dog scout troop 101 is Molly, a Labrador Retriever whose pet parent is Kaylene Long. Molly's story is a very interesting one with a happy ending. Here's how it all began...



Troop 101 members Barb Foy with Timmy, Lonnie Olson with Kozi, Fay Reid with Goldy, Claudette Smith with Delta, and Lorrie Reid with Autumn at a Mutt March a few years back. Notice Lorrie is wearing her "30 merit badges before breakfast" t-shirt.

One of our troop members was Lorrie Reid (Troop leader, Fay Reid's Mom). Her Dog Scout, Autumn passed away about 1 year ago. Because of Lorrie's advancing age, she wanted to get a Golden that could act as a service dog for her around the house, bracing to help her get up from her gardening, and retrieving her gloves or dropped objects the way Autumn used to do. Daughter, Fay, started helping her look for another Golden Retriever.

As it happened, a friend knew of a Black Lab, that was a "career change dog" from a service dog organization. This pup was donated to the organization at 10 months, but wasn't going to be able to complete training, due to severe fear issues regarding men. Lord knows what happened to this poor puppy in her first family to make her go into alarm mode whenever a man approached...

Fay and Lorrie went to see Molly, who seemed to be drawn to Lorrie, and lay down at her feet. Fay knew it would be a challenge to get this dog comfortable in her own skin near men, but there was an instant connection between Lorrie and Molly. When they were approved to adopt her, Fay's sister Kaylene, went with Lorrie to pick up Molly. Kaylene was instantly smitten by this sweet Black Lab. When she lifted Molly into the truck, there was a look on her face that said, "I'm unsure of where I'm going, but I hope it's to a good place." She saw the softer side of Molly. There was none of this fear and aggression they had warned her about. At the age of 15 months, Molly came home to live with Lorrie.

Shortly afterwards, however, Lorrie had a mild heart attack and had to spend some time in the hospital. Then, in July, she fell and experienced a brain bleed. She was in and out of hospitals and back home with visiting nurses and Physical Therapists. After the brain bleed, the cat, Butterfly, didn't go to visit Lorrie in her room any more. But Molly was always there, putting a paw up on Lorrie's bed, and comforting her.



Lorrie with Molly

Troop 101—MI - Adopting Molly (cont.)

When Lorrie was not at home, Molly went to stay with Kaylene. Molly did not like Kaylene's husband, Scott. Molly had obviously come to know abuse from a man. But in a short period, she was sleeping in the bed between the two of them, cuddling. It was mostly standing or approaching men that triggered her fear.

Fay wanted to get Molly involved with Dog Scouts, to give her mom a reason to live. The girls would ask their mom which badges she wanted to work on next with Molly. Lorrie had always been very supportive of Dog Scouts, and enjoyed training and showing off all of the things that her two previous dogs, Maple DSA and Autumn DSA had learned. Kaylene and Molly created a painting and showed it to Lorrie. She had them frame it and put it in her room. She would tell all the visiting nurses about the painting, and how her dog, Molly had made it. When Lorrie became completely bedridden, she got a bell, and taught Molly to come to see what she wanted when she rang the bell. She loved showing this off to all visitors.



Kaylene and Molly create a painting

Two months before Lorrie passed away at age 84, she wrote down her wishes for the welfare of her animals after she dies. Butterfly, the cat was to go to son, Kevin, and Molly was to go to Kaylene, with the stipulation that Molly must continue with Dog Scouts, and have a nice walk each day. Lorrie loved her dog so much that she wanted the best life possible for Molly. She included money to support Molly's continued participation in DSA activities. All badges, equipment, enrollments, etc. were to be paid from the Molly fund.



Lorrie gets a visit from Molly the Elf, which makes her smile

Lorrie also willed Kaylene her "My Dog Scout and I can earn 30 merit badges before breakfast—What can YOU do?" tee shirt. But she said that Kaylene couldn't wear it until she and Molly earned 30 merit badges together.

After Kaylene became the caretaker of Molly is when I first met them, in the summer of 2020. I found out that Kaylene is 10 years younger than Fay, and that they had a very good relationship. Kaylene says that growing up, Fay was like her second "mom," but FUN! They used to do all kinds of fun things with the dogs, like Fun Walks to benefit shelters, and holding garage sales to benefit Dog Scouts or other charities. But when Kaylene got married and moved away, they didn't see each other as often. It was a different chapter in Kaylene's life, and she became the step-mom to 4 kids and was running a farm, and dogs were well-loved pets and household companions. In the beginning, Scott was not even fond of having them in the house, much less the bed!

The sisters stayed true to their promise to provide a good Dog Scout life for Molly. Fay got them involved with scent work, as she thought it would be good for Molly. Then came agility, letterboxing and geocaching. Fay said that the best thing about DSA is that it "opens doors" to other activities,

Troop 101—MI - Adopting Molly (cont.)



Kayaking: Lonnie with Scallywag & Kismet,
Laurie Keel with Booker, Fay with Goldy,
and Kaylene with Molly.

and now, Molly is heading into competition in scent work and agility trials. Kaylene was really bitten by the “badge bug” and started doing all kinds of things with Molly to earn badges. Through the summer DSA was running the badge earning contest, and guess who won? Kaylene came in first place nationwide and won her very own “30 merit badges before breakfast” shirt.

It was such a fun summer. I was able to join with Kaylene and Fay and other DSA members on many of their canoe and kayaking river trips, and watch Molly learn more and more things and get comfortable with strangers. She has learned to calm herself when she starts to feel overwhelmed or panicky. We even passed within a few feet of a man fishing in the middle of the river, and she never let out a woof!

Kaylene says that she never realized how much she missed doing fun doggie stuff with Fay, until they got back involved with those things again. She says that Dog Scouts has opened her up to things she never even thought about doing with her dog. And her other dog, Jax (an English Setter) is getting a side benefit to all of this. He is now learning all kinds of fun things. Kaylene says that she underestimated him. She tended to think that Jax wouldn't do something or wouldn't like this or that activity, but then he surprises her. He has been earning badges right alongside Molly.

It warms my heart to think that a dying friend's wishes brought two sisters together, and helped two dogs “be all they can be” through DSA activities.

At a recent troop 217 virtual holiday party (to which Troop 101 members were invited), Troop leader Sally Hoyle asked us to think about something positive that transpired in our lives during the past year, and share it with the zoom meeting group. Fay and Kaylene each wanted to go first, because they both had the same thing to say, and, like true sisters, wanted to be the first to verbalize it. They had some of us in tears, as they spoke about how the adoption of Molly has brought two sisters together to enjoy so many things through Dog Scouts of America, and allowed a dog with baggage to find a loving home. Fay and Kaylene have become besties, and have rekindled their love for each other. Maybe this was Lorrie's plan all along...

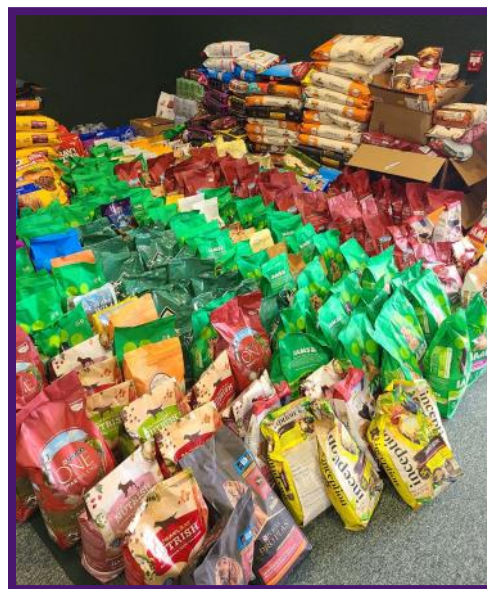
Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

With 2020 being The Year of COVID, many of our troop activities were limited or postponed. One, however, that did not change (other than added sanitizers and safety precautions), was our annual Meals On Wheels for Pets Project! We really worried that donations would be down this year but it ended up being our biggest year yet!! We put together 170 doggie gift bags (up more than 20% from last year!) and troop member, Nita Lanter, and her family made 80 kitty bags! Several of us did a lot of pre-work of sorting items and decorating bags ahead of time not knowing for sure how much help we'd have on baggin' day but it all worked out! There were so many bags of dog food donated, that there was no way the MOW folks could take all the food and the gift bags at once – even in their new, extra-large van that was purchased just for the client services program. We got the gift bags all loaded up on baggin' day Sunday and met back up with the MOW folks at the gym on Monday morning to load all the food. We ended up with some extra muscle compliments of FWFD, which made the process go a lot quicker!! The dog food was stacked on pallets back at the MOW warehouse and it amounted to 5 full pallets and a partial pallet. I think they are all still shocked at the overwhelming response to this year's project.

I got this message in an email from the Client Assistance Manager for MOW: "We are so happy for the clients and their furry friends who will be blessed with these items. It was a huge blessing, especially since our pet food donations have been down. I had to purchase food several months in a row because there were no donations coming in. Please let the group know that we received calls from concerned clients this year. They were worried that COVID would impact the holiday program. Many of them expressed that they didn't care if they got something for the holidays, but they were hoping that their pet would. These gift bags will surely make their holiday special."

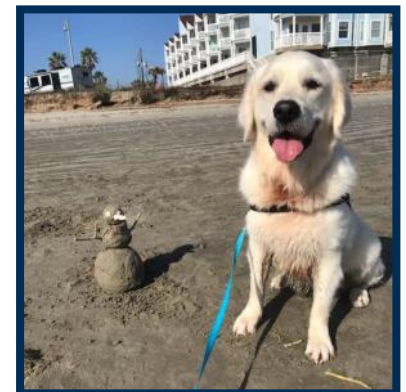
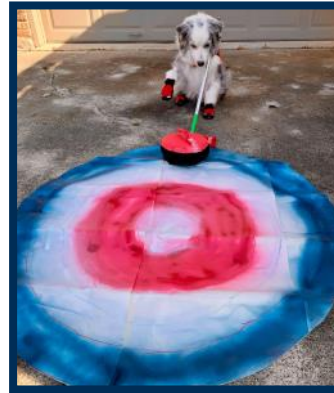
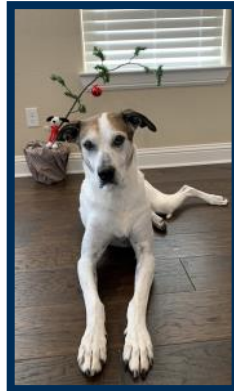
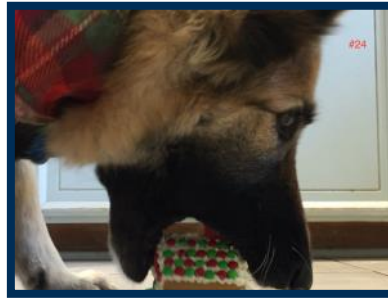
We ended up with over 1,100 dog toys, 200 bowls; 1,000 chews; 200+ lbs biscuits; 200+ individually packaged treats; 300+ rolls poop bags; over 3,500 lbs of dog food; miscellaneous collars, leashes & brushes PLUS toys, treats, bowls and food for 80 cats! A huge thank you to our awesome troop, as well as their friends, family & co-workers for making this project such a huge success!



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

With so many travel and gathering restrictions in place during the holidays this year, most troop members weren't able to venture too far beyond their own neighborhoods and parks. To help combat the holiday blues, troop member Cheryl Bales came up with an awesome activity for the troop members to be able to do individually. She created a Selfie Holiday Scavenger Hunt. We had a list of 56 holiday items to find and have our dog do "selfies" with the holiday items.

The scavenger hunt ran from Dec. 15 – Jan. 15. Cheryl set up a shared photo site for everyone to upload their Scavenger Hunt albums. All members who submitted at least 30 photos from the list of 56 went into a raffle drawing for prizes. A grand prize was awarded to the troop member with the Best Overall Album of Photos in terms of creativity, composition, number of hunt items completed, and level of difficulty to capture such images. It was great fun! Many of the items were easy to find at our homes (with a Christmas tree, with a holiday stocking, etc.) and some took more adventures and exploring (with a Salvation Army bellringer, next to a Santa on a motorcycle, etc.). We had a great time with our dogs, even though they likely thought we were a bit silly at times!

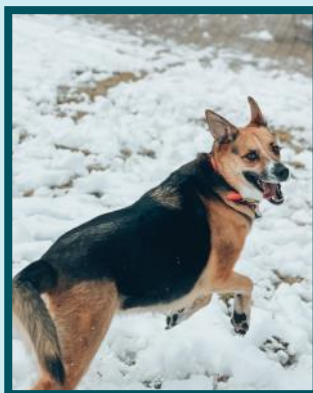


Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



We had several troop members participate in the Turkey Trot this year even though not many of them remembered to take photographic evidence! We had great Turkey Trot weather and all the trotters had a great time.

The other fun activity most of the troop dogs got to experience in January was.... SNOW in Texas!!



While not all of us actually got snow at our houses (my dogs are still a little bitter), most of our troop members did. Snow is something our troop dogs don't get to experience much (and some never!) so once they figured out that while stuff was fun to eat and play in, they had a great time!

We are looking forward to new and exciting things in 2021 and are REALLY looking forward to seeing all our troop friends again on a regular basis!

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine



Turkey Trot 2020

This year we kept with tradition meeting at a local park to participate in the 6th Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot.

We scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations, such as Costa Rica. Also, one of our Troop Members Shari Hain surprised us by creating a Turkey Trot Letter Box Stamp for the event, which was so thoughtful and appreciated by all.

Everyone who participated had a great time and enjoyed supporting an event sponsored by the Dog Scouts of America.

Riverland Neighborhood Christmas Lights - Paws for Cause

Dog Scout, River Hanna, is lucky to have "that Christmas family" on her street. The Sablich Family Christmas Display boasts 75,000 lights, multiple animation and still figurines, a walk thru Santa village, and even "snow" in Florida. A few of our troop members visited for a Picture with Santa event. The event accepts donations for a local dog rescue.

Our troop members gathered at River's backyard for some refreshments and then we headed down the street to see the lights. Some troop members braved the line to see Santa while others were content to mingle with a very large crowd of adult humans and children and other dogs.

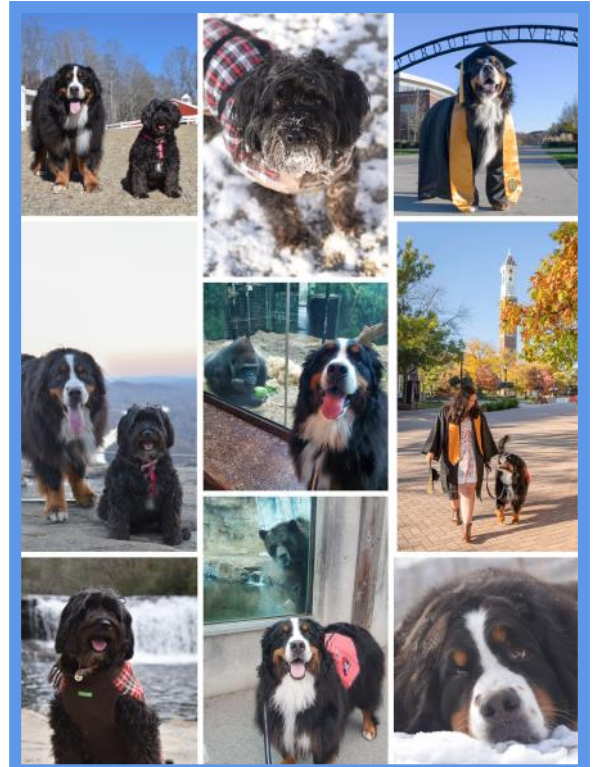
Evening events are unique for our troop. We enjoyed the cool evening and felt good supporting our community.



Biscoff and Monica Graduates College

Biscoff and his Mom (Monica) graduated college in December 2020 earning a BS in Animal Sciences from Purdue University. As a Service Dog, Biscoff accompanied his mom to work, classes, and events.

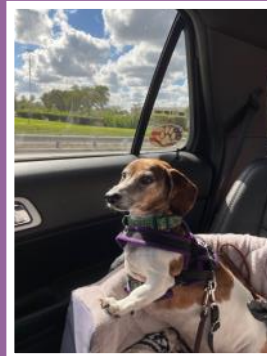
On their way back home they went on a job hunts and toured 9 zoos and aquariums. Later with his Dog Scout sister Bubbles they took a vacation to North Carolina where they hiked Dupont State Forest and Chimney Rock. Congratulations to Biscoff and Monica! What a huge accomplishment! Paw Five! 😊



December Fun Activities

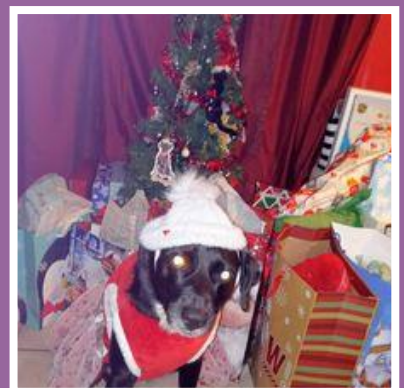


Over the Holiday's Clover and Grace went hiking in Georgia and hiked with their friends River, plus foster Hulk at Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park in New Port Richey, FL.



Ripley enjoyed her car ride to a volunteer Holiday event

Felice, Peanut, Jolie and Lucy enjoyed Christmas at home – playing with their stuffies, hanging out in a “Gift Box” and relaxing.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)



On New Year's Eve Luna went on a 3 mile walk, so she would be worn out for the night festivities.

It was a quiet Holiday enjoyed with Family, Friends and our Fur-Kids.

Post Holiday Get Together

We enjoyed a post holiday get together at a local park to enjoy the beautiful weather, discussed the upcoming year and took a short hike.

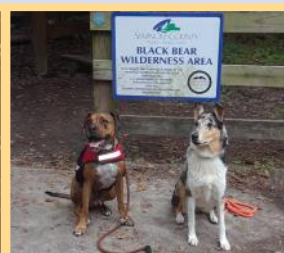


We are hoping 2021 will be a better year and we will be able to enjoy more activities with our Troop.

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

It's not often a large dog earns a ribbon that's bigger than she is, since the last newsletter, Dog Scout Jurnee Mimms did just that by winning Gold Cup at the International All Breed Canine Association show - the Gold Cup Series is open to dogs who have earned the IABCA International, National and Honors Champion titles, Jurnee earned her International Champion title in 2019 and both the National and Honors titles in 2020.



Our Turkey Trot was more of a soggy doggie puddle stomp, but our awesome troopers walked over 1.5 miles together anyway.

9-year old Nim DSA, got to explore 2 new trails while logging miles for the 5-Mile Gobbler. One new trail she explored with Marvin Beer DSA, the other with her housemate Tachi DSA.



Dog Scout Tachi Conley earned the Naked Dog Obedience and Retrieve badges.

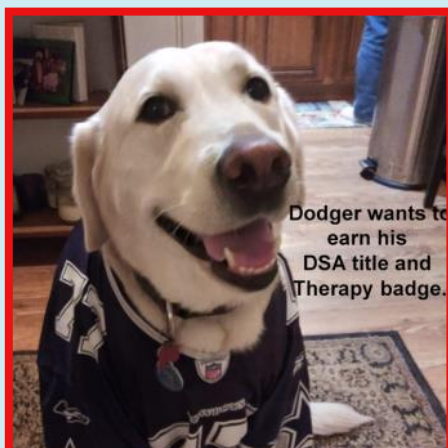
In January we met for lunch on the patio at a local restaurant to discuss activities we'd like to schedule in 2021. Our list started with Winter of Wags in February and then we agreed to schedule sessions on Naked Dog Obedience, Agility, Rally FrEe, Scent Discrimination, Barn Hunt, Manners, Tracking and trying something new with Sign Language. Troop member Cyndi volunteers with the deaf ministry at her church and will be helping us learn the signs. Winter of Wags may also spark some interest in a couple of other activities, so we'll see if we can fit those in as well.

We're looking forward to spending more time with our newest troop members Natalie and David with Gigi and Cindy and Jim with Carly.



Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader



Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Gus is determined to finish the DSA title and earn the Frisbee Badge



Hyannis intends to earn both Scent Discrimination and Tracking Badges



Luna intends to earn her Manners & Naked Dog Badges



Major is looking forward to earning his Therapy, parkour, and Agility badges



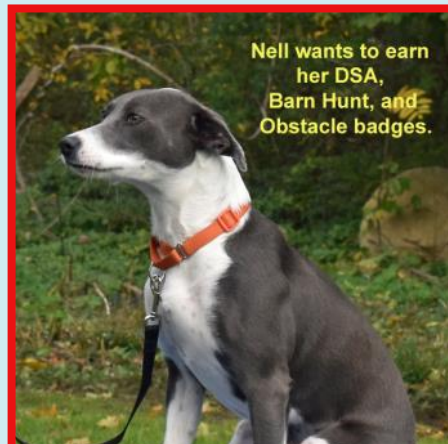
Mojo is interested in getting the Scent Discrimination and Manners badges.



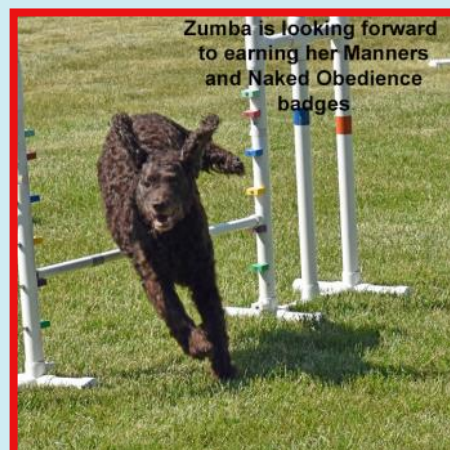
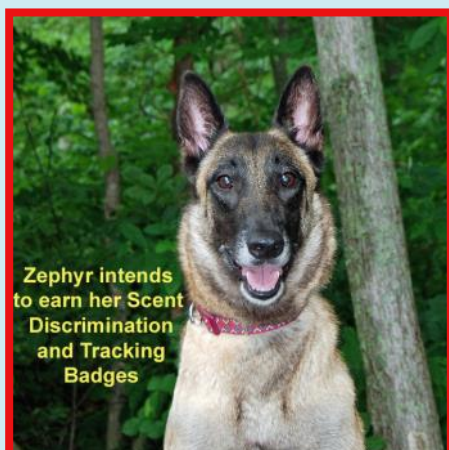
Mookie is looking to earn his DSA, Barn Hunt, Scenting & Tricks Badges



Nell wants to earn her DSA, Barn Hunt, and Obstacle badges.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Troops 198 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

Charlie crosses the Rainbow Bridge

Sadly, we have lost fellow Dog Scout member Charlie of Troop #237 in the San Francisco East Bay. He passed away from cancer, which came on unexpectedly and quickly. Here are a few words from his mom, Katherine:

“He came from a huge hoarding situation of 165 dogs in the Valley and was totally fearful of everything--people, trash cans, windows, even squirrels! He was fine with other dogs, so we took a LOT of classes from a number of different places, not to learn to sit etc. but just for him to feel more comfortable with people... He had Separation Anxiety, so we went everywhere together for 9+ years...and of course we joined the Dog Scouts. He didn't like that big room at Metro Dog, but he got used to it, and he loved the pack walks.



He enjoyed other dogs, and he'd gotten pretty good with people (he was especially fond of my partner Steve), but his greatest love was running around off-leash in the parks, and there he experienced true joy.”

These pictures are from when he and Dog Scout Maurice visited Point Pinole in September - just a week or so before he was diagnosed. He was a very sweet and special dog, and he will really be missed.

Charlie and Mom Katherine enjoying a walk together

Charlie and Maurice having a good play together



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

We have some exciting news to share! On December 19th Bailey and Crystal Gumbin passed their Dog Scout Test with Scout Master Donna Johns. They are very active members participating in many activities such as dock diving, hiking, community service, and barn hunt, and they are always trying new things. No doubt they will soon start earning lots of other badges. Congratulations to Dog Scouts Bailey, Crystal and their humans, Carlotta, Scott and Christina!



We are also thrilled to announce two more Dog Scouts! On December 22nd June and Tacoma fur kids of Jackie Phillips earned their Dog Scout Titles with Scout Master Donna Johns.

This is Dog Scout June; she was rescued from the Thailand meat trade before Jackie adopted her. In addition to Dog Scouts June is a favorite at the Masonic Center where she does Pet Therapy visits with Jackie.



This is Dog Scout Tacoma; he was picked up as a stray by the city of San Jose before Jackie adopted him. Tacoma is loving leaning how to do scent work with Jackie and will probably be going after that badge soon. Tacoma and June are proud to join Jackie's other Dog Scouts, Dino, Rusty, Palo and Asia, a VERY accomplished family! There are two other siblings in the family, and we are sure Cadets Elton and Rebel will earn their Dog Scout titles in the near future.



We have more exciting and uplifting news! Meet the newest members of the pack, Cadets Callisto, (Callie) and Cassini, (Cas). After the loss of her Dog Scout Comet in August, Susan was stuck in the middle of a pandemic dog less and on the verge of a big October move for work. She wasted no time once in Minneapolis moving into a dog perfect house and started hitting the Huskey rescue sites. Enter Cadets Callie and Cas, a bonded pair who had been dumped at a shelter two years ago with human trust/fear issues. In foster care they had made progress and on Jan 1st, they finally entered their forever home with Susan. They will follow the path of Susan's previous rescues, Comet, Halley, Aurora, Vixen, Donner and Dasher and she will teach them how awesome it really is to be a dog living the Dog Scout Way. Welcome to the pack Cadets Callie and Cas, can't wait to see your postings on the Dog Scout FB page!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

We are VERY proud of our Turkey Trotters and Mile Gobbler Teams. Congratulations . . .

Kristi and Dog Scout Maurice Iwamoto



Dog Scouts Bailey and Crystal Gumbin



Dog Scout Sadie Randall



Cadet Wishbone and Scout Master Donna Johns



Dog Scout Yeti, Cadet Tribble and sister Elle Belle Weaver



Thank you to all the teams for their hard work and for the funds they helped raise for Dog Scouts by gobbling and trotting. Great Job Teams!

At Thanksgiving on our San Francisco Troop Face Book page, we asked our members to share what they were thankful for this year and Bailey shared that she was thankful for beautiful Autumn walks with Mom Trish.



At Christmas time we asked our members to post holiday pictures and greetings on our Troop Face Book page and this is a holiday greeting from Gnocchi.



And this is a holiday greeting from Dog Scout Crystal, Cadet Sprocket, Mom Patty and Mokey the kitty. Mokey has helped many members of our troop practice and pass the Leave It With Critter test. All three are certified therapy pets.



On our Troop Face Book page we asked our members to share interesting and educational posts about their dogs. We learned about targeted electromagnetic field technology for the treatment of swollen joints and arthritis from Dog Scout Duncan Lane.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



And we learned about swimming as physical rehabilitation therapy from Dog Scout Wyatt Lane



From Cadet Dayton Armstrong we learned about the Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. Every year Cadet Dayton spends a day at the vet getting poked and sampled and examined for the Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. His parents feel bad for the poor guy, they're sure he doesn't enjoy it, but it's all for a good cause, it is part of a huge study to help prevent cancer in both animals and humans. Our thanks to the Armstrong Family for your sacrifice and service to the community and thank you Parktown Veterinary Clinic for



The San Francisco Bay Area Troops are ready to move on to new and better things in 2021, Cadet Wishbone wishes a Happy New Year to Dog Scouts all across the country and we will see you at Winter of Wags Virtual Camp in February!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

The Motor City K9s wrapped up 2020 with a terrific holiday party conducted over Zoom! We invited our sister troop, The Northern Michigan Trailblazers and we're very happy that so many of them could join in on the fun.

We had an ugly holiday sweater contest and since everyone did such a great job and I was unable to choose a winner, I decided to award everyone the "Ugly Sweater Fun" patch. We played the My Dog Can game, where small groups were sent to breakout rooms to come up with 2 truths and a lie about their dogs abilities. Then everyone came back together and the larger group had to guess which thing was a lie for each dog. We had three winners, all of whom managed to fool the group with their very creative lies!



In advance of the party I asked everyone to send me the name of their favorite holiday song. I played small snippets of each song and asked people to guess using the private chat function. This was a really fun game and everyone was really surprised by the choices everyone made.



We also talked about the best thing about the very challenging year we had in 2020, and talked about all the great things we want to do in 2021. We had prizes for all our games that I sent out after the party, and everyone got the "Virtual Holiday Party" patch.

It was really fun to use all of the advanced features of Zoom, including chat, polls, breakout rooms and emojis. Everyone agreed that this was a great way to get together and as close as possible to an in person party.



Our Zoom party (far left), Katie & I having some holiday fun (left), Moose, Bam Bam and Swagger dressed up for the party (below)


We met again by Zoom in early January to discuss what we wanted to do together in 2021, both virtually and once we can get together again in person. The group decided that getting together every two weeks as we did last fall via Zoom was really helpful in this challenging environment. This group is so creative in thinking of great ways to use Zoom to stay connected and work on badges, and we have a bunch of things planned for the year.




Troop 219—CT (cont.)

We are starting on the Manners badge at the end of January. Some members have dogs who already have earned the badge but felt a refresher would be good. These people will also be a great help to others as well by sharing some of the ways they trained the requirements. Others have been working on the badge requirements but are not quite there, and some have yet to begin working on it. We felt this would be a good badge to start the year with, after our success with the Disabled Dog badge in the fall.

We also brainstormed ways to use our therapy dogs and engage with those facilities that they regularly engaged with in the past. We decided to create baseball style cards for all of our dogs. We can use these to send electronically with the different facilities, and we can also have them printed to use once we can get back to doing therapy work and community events. We're going to share our cards on our Facebook page too. Our very talented Martha Thierry created a template for the cards and we provided her with a photo and information to plug in. We think they came out great!




Shelby



Motor City K9s
Dog Scouts of America • Troop #17

**Shelby Benson, DSA
Honor Scout**

Nick Name	Peanut
Breed	Shih Tzu
Age	17 1/2
Weight	9 lbs.
Favorite Food	Chicken
Favorite Toy	Red Pillow
Favorite Badge	Messenger Dog
Best Skill	Scent Work
Favorite Car	My mom's car
Motto	"Live each day to its fullest!"


dogscouts.org



Mackenzie



Motor City K9s
Dog Scouts of America • Troop #17

Mackenzie Hoyle, DSA

Nicknames	Little Bit, Mighty Mac
Breed	Old English Sheepdog
Age	3
Weight	65 lbs.
Favorite Food	Yogurt
Favorite Toy	Tug Toys
Favorite Badge	Animal Actor
Best Skill	Tricks, Parkour
Favorite Car	Jeep Wrangler
Motto	"Puppy kisses make everything better!"


dogscouts.org

Another way we plan to interact with one another is by playing games over Zoom. After the success of our holiday party we have realized that the possibilities are endless. We'll be playing a dog trivia game styled after Family Feud and doing a tricks challenge very soon.

I am so very thankful for Dog Scouts and my amazing troop members! We have been unable to get together in person for many months now since we have so many high risk members. Here in Michigan as in other places this pandemic and the isolation it has brought is really wearing on everyone. Still, we have been able to get together quite often for badge work or simply to talk, share training ideas, or just have fun. I'm really proud of everything my troop members accomplished in 2020 and look forward to what we will do together in 2021, whether virtually or face-to-face.

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Instagram: instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

#dogscoutsofamerica



WINTER OF WAGS Virtual Camp started February 7

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 Dean — 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)

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."