



**Dog Scouts of America**  
**Evaluation Criteria**

**Dock Diving**

**PURPOSE:** This badge demonstrates that owner and dog can participate in dock diving where the dog will run down the length of a dock and leap as far out into the water as possible to catch or retrieve a thrown toy aiming for maximum distance from the end of the dock.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** The dog must be able to swim comfortably and recall on cue from the water. The dog will bring a thrown toy back from the water. Dog must be comfortable being restrained on the dock or be able to hold a stay (any position) on the dock until handler is in place to throw toy and releases the dog. Dog will complete a full jump from take-off leaving the dock, retrieving the toy, and returning to the handler via an exit ramp or ladder.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** The handler must keep safety and the physical and mental well-being of his/her dog as a top priority. Handler understands how to condition his/her dog for this sport. Handler can direct the dog to swim to a ramp or ladder and exit the pool safely. Handler understands basic safety concerns for the sport of dock diving. Handler can explain the rules of competition including how a trial is organized, what category /division their dog jumps in, how a title is earned, and specific rules from the national organization in which they compete. (i.e., North American Diving Dogs, Dock Dogs, Ultimate Air dogs)

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** A safe dock on a suitable body of water (i.e., competition length dock and pool or dock on a lake), a toy that floats. A canine lifejacket is recommended especially during the initial training stages but is not required to earn the badge.

**PROCESS:** Handler teaches the dog using only positive methods to retrieve a thrown toy from the water by jumping off of a dock beginning with short jumps and short throws gradually increasing the distance the toy is thrown and the distance the dog runs on the dock before jumping. Handler ensures the dog is in an appropriate physical condition prior to starting the training and while earning the badge.

ALLOWED:

Wearing a life jacket or body suit  
Allowances for disabled handlers

Any type of floating toy that is safe for the dog (i.e., bumpers, wubbas, tennis balls, frisbees, etc.)

NOT ALLOWED:

Using food as a thrown toy  
Pushing, shoving, or throwing the dog off the dock  
Eliminating on the dock or in the water