

# Dog Scouts of America Versatile Troop Leader Program

“Let us learn new things, that we may become more helpful”

## Why A Versatile Troop Leader Program

The Versatile Troop Leader Program has been established to:

1. Recognize leaders who distinguish themselves through achieving merit badges in multiple categories.
2. Facilitate leaders' personal goal setting.
3. Motivate leaders to expand their knowledge and skill set.
4. Increase leaders' confidence as goals are accomplished which may initially be outside of their personal comfort zones.
5. Pave the way towards the Honor Scout title.
6. Inspire troop members to follow a positive example and venture into new activities.
7. Support troop members with mentors who understand DSA's safety and skill requirements.
8. Convey to interested dog owners the wide range of activities available with DSA membership.



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## Levels of Recognition

There are 5 levels for participants to achieve, by earning merit badges in at least 5 different categories:

### Bronze

- Leader’s personal dog has earned at least one badge from 5 different categories.
- A personalized certificate will be emailed to you for the first dog with which you achieve this leadership level.



### Silver

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same category as the previous level or from new categories.
- A personalized certificate will be emailed to you for the first dog with which you achieve this leadership level.

### Gold

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same categories as any of the previous levels or from new categories.
- A personalized certificate will be emailed to you for the first dog with which you achieve this leadership level.

### Platinum

- Same dog has earned 5 additional badges from any 5 categories – this may be from the same categories as any of the previous levels or from new categories.
- A personalized certificate will be emailed to you for each dog with which you achieve this level until the Diamond level is attained.
- A numeric designation will be added in recognition of each dog with which you achieve the Platinum leadership level.



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## Tracking Your Dog's Achievements

### To start the program

1. Download the Versatile Leader Program log.
2. Copy the sheet for each of your personal dogs.
3. Rename each of the copied sheets for each of your dogs.
4. Complete each of the forms to the highest level achieved with that dog.
  - a. **Log only the badges earned while actively leading an official troop.**
  - b. Each of the categories has a dropdown box for you to select the appropriate badge.
  - c. If you don't recall the exact date the badge was earned but recall the month and year, then just use the last day of the month (you can also refer to the “Badges Earned Master File” found at the bottom of the [Merit Badges](#) page of the DSA website).
  - d. **Badges can be listed in any order earned and if you've already earned multiple badges in a category, you may choose the ones you'd like included on your certificate.**
5. Email the log to [troops@dogscouts.org](mailto:troops@dogscouts.org). Your status will be updated on the [Find a Troop](#) page and we will email you a personalized certificate of acknowledgment for the highest level you have achieved so far.



### To continue the program

1. When you reach the next achievement level with one or more of your personal dogs, email the log to [troops@dogscouts.org](mailto:troops@dogscouts.org). Your status will be updated on the [Find a Troop](#) page and we will email you a personalized certificate of acknowledgment.

