

# The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 25 Issue 2 ~ Summer 2022

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



Duncan Lane  
responding  
to the  
"I LOVE YOU"  
sign taught for the  
Sign Language  
Merit Badge

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is

**September 1st**

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to [thescoop@dogscouts.org](mailto:thescoop@dogscouts.org)

# New Website Memorial Page

A memorial page is coming to our website to honor all Dog Scouts who have passed.

We want to pay tribute to our dearly departed Dog Scouts by giving them a special page on our website. At the Michigan camp, a generous camper, Chris Kloski, has created and donated a "Rainbow Bridge Troop" plaque that remembers the dogs who have attended the Michigan camp. I thought we could take that a step further and remember all of our departed Scouts, from all corners of the planet, on our DSA website. So I'm collecting information. If you have a Scout at the Rainbow Bridge that passed in the last 26 years, we want to honor your dog(s) on this page.

I would like to know your dog's name, plus birth date and date of passing. If you only have one or the other dates, please come as close as you can to supplying at least the year of their birth and passing. I'm thinking this page is going to be huge, so I'm not sure we can guarantee we'll use any photos or not. Please include your name. There may be space to say, "Loved and missed by the Blue Family." If you want to list other titles in the dog's name, we can do that, but we'd like to limit each person's submission to one line of print. I'd be curious to know where you're from, too, because we've got dogs all over that have been Scouts.

There is no charge to have your dog memorialized on our page. We welcome all Dog Scouts.

This page will be more than just a memorial. It will have sentimental poems that you can relate to, regarding losing a beloved dog. It will also have information on the stages of grief, and things that you can do to help ease the pain of losing your canine family member. There will be links to grief counseling services in your area, and more. We hope it will be a resource for you to help you cope with the loss of your beloved pet.

This web page will not be updated every time a pet dies. We will have to do this on a quarterly or maybe even annual basis, so it is important for you to get the information to us, and be patient for the next update. We don't want to make this labor-intensive for our webmaster!

Some troop leaders will be helping to collect the data for this page. If you don't belong to a troop, you can send the information on your own to Lonnie (founder) at [dogscoutcamp@gmail.com](mailto:dogscoutcamp@gmail.com). You can also contact Lonnie if you have any questions regarding the page.



## Attitude of Gratitude



Thanks to Jean Thompson and Barb Foy for donating a bunch of stuff they had collected/created for the fall outing. They will be unable to host the event as planned, but they hauled over a boatload of prizes, goodie bag stuff, auction items, props for games, directions for the games, props for a fall photo shoot, some custom posters that they had made for the event, and even a vacuum cleaner!. We plan on implementing most of their ideas (including the turkey dinner!) for the fabulous "Freaky Fall Festival," which will take place on October 7-9, 2022. Call 989-389-2000 to reserve lodging for this event.

# Michigan Camp Clean-up Weekend

The first of the camp clean-ups was scheduled for May 20-22. Diane Baughman (from Toledo, OH), Sally Hoyle (from Whitmore Lake, MI), and Fay Reid (from Bay City, MI) attended, along with Lonnie, who lives here at camp. All hours were volunteered, and we got a lot of work done (78 man-hours).



A priority was to get the trails cleared, as there were about a dozen trees across the trails around camp. Sally and Lonnie cut up the downed trees and got them off the trails. Diane busied herself with leaf blowing, raking and hauling away the collected leaves. It really made an impact on the appearance of camp!

We all helped load and unload the new utility trailer, which hauled branches and limbs to the burn area at the other side of camp. We finally got a burn permit and the tree debris was burned on Memorial Day Weekend.

Fay did some cleaning inside the lodge, in addition to helping with the yardwork and supervising the campfire, where we were burning the smaller dead branches that needed to be picked up so the grounds could be mowed. We trimmed up several trees so as not to have flea and tick nesting sites at the base of the trees. It looks so much nicer now, also. *Please note that Diane is not running the aerial trimmer with one hand. She is simply hooking it onto the branch to get ready to trim it!*

Diane and Lonnie tackled the red garage, where a lot of junk needed to be thrown out. There was also a porcupine using it as his winter den, and he trashed a lot of stuff, and left behind a lot of excrement. Yuck.

Barrie Lynn Wood had planned to attend, but something came up last minute. So to make up for the delicious food she had prepared for our Saturday dinner (carnitas) not being here, she called a local restaurant that delivers, and had a yummy dinner delivered to us hard-working volunteers. That was a nice surprise!

Of course, the work is NEVER done around here, and we held another clean-up on the June 6<sup>th</sup> week.

We hope everyone notices the improvements to the appearance of camp. Thanks to Sally, Diane, Fay and Lonnie for their volunteer hours.



# Something Scent-sational



## This Way

## Comes . . .



Dog Scouts is celebrating dog snouts this September. Join us on a scent safari that provides **over THIRTY** opportunities for your dog to seek, search, sniff and snuffle this Fall.

Nosey dogs of all ages and abilities can learn, develop, and hone their skills in finding target odor; plus, as you participate in this aroma adventure, you'll add another dimension to understanding your dog's world and his communication of it.

During the month of September, **TWO daily** scent challenges will be posted on the event's private Facebook group, one geared towards those just starting out on their scent quest, the other for dogs already sniffing out the scent scene. Complete the activity that is appropriate for your dog and share your journey with others in the challenge by posting video and pictures to the Facebook group.

All participants will receive a "Right On The Nose" Scent Kit and a participation patch. *Scent kit contains four labeled storage containers with pre-scented Q-tips (Birch, Anise, Clove & Cypress), four mini tubes, a magnetized tin, sticky dots and a pair of tweezers (\$20 value).*

This odor odyssey is **open to everyone** and can be enjoyed no matter where in the world you are searching!

# Right On The Nose Scent Challenge!

Registration opens July 15, 2022 and closes August 15, 2022.

[Right On The Nose Scent Challenge \(runsignup.com\)](https://runsignup.com)

*DSA membership not required to participate.*

# New Camp Store Items!

We have several new items available in the camp store that we are very excited to announce! All of these items are now available on our web site by going to the “Sparky’s Store” tab.

## Official DSA “Right on the Nose” Scent Kit \$20



This kit comes with everything you need to practice scent work with your super sniffer dog, anywhere and anytime, all in a compact 3 x 3 box. The kit includes glass vials with cotton swabs pre-scented with Birch, Anise, Clove and Cypress oils, plastic tubing and a magnetic box for hiding scent, adhesive dots to attach scent vessels, and tweezers to help you handle the cotton swabs.

This is a special item found exclusively at the camp store.

## Dog Scouts of America Leather Key Fob \$12

These genuine leather key fobs come in red and medium brown and are imprinted with the DSA logo. Not just for keys, this item is great to use for scent work when training your dog to find leather—ultimately though, what better way to help your dog be more useful than to teach them to find the leather fob attached to your car keys!



## Official Dog Scouts of America Leash \$17 - \$24

These leashes are custom made and include our name prominently embroidered on quality cotton fabric over lightweight nylon webbing. The fabric is an exact match to what is use for our new style uniform capes. The leashes are specifically designed to prominently display our merit badges and are especially useful with small dogs who may not have enough room on their capes for all of the badges they have earned. We used lightweight, heavy duty plastic hardware to ensure the leashes were appropriate for small dogs. The leashes can also be used to display fun patches or patches earned with any of our trails titles as well as merit badges. Designed to be used anytime your dog is in public representing Dog Scouts of America, these leashes are a great addition to your dog’s wardrobe.



The leashes come in two different styles.

### **Standard 4-foot leash \$17**

Includes the words “Dog Scouts of America” on the handle.

### **Hands-free, Over-the-Shoulder style leash \$24**

This style is 7 ½ feet in total and includes the words “Dog Scouts of America” across the chest or back, depending on which side the dog is heeling. There are 2 heavy duty plastic D-rings to adjust the leash to accommodate people of all sizes.



# ANNOUNCING

## FREAKY FALL FESTIVAL

DSA's annual Fall outing (Jamboree) held at the Michigan camp in St. Helen will take place **October 7-9, 2022**.

The **Freaky Fall Festival** will be packed with fabulous fun-filled, educational games, goodie bags, photo ops, and prizes—all this plus an auction and a turkey dinner!

This event has been planned by Troop 101 and is **FREE to any DSA member**—all you'll need to cover is the cost of your lodging.

Contact Lonnie ([dogscoutcamp@gmail.com](mailto:dogscoutcamp@gmail.com)) to book lodging for this event—Camp cabins and rooms in the lodge are currently available, as well as tent and RV sites.

**Get ready to FREAK OUT! at Dog Scout Camp this Fall!**



# Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



## Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

It's springtime, and the weather is perfect for earning Trail Titles!

Congratulations to all of the teams who received new titles between March and May:

### TRAIL DOG

- Booker Keel (TDX, UT)
- Patch Walker (UT5K, UT6K)
- Burley Weger (TDX)
- Duchess Weger (TDX)
- Frankie Weger (TDX)
- Murdock Weger (TDX)



### LETTERBOX DOG

- Booker Keel (pictured)
- Katie Hoyle (LBD500)
- Mackenzie Hoyle (LBX)
- Kismet Olson (LBA)
- Scallywag Olson (LBA)

If you're interested in learning more about Trail Titles, please visit our website's [Trail Dog Titles](#) page, and if you have any questions at all, feel free to email me at [titles@dogscouts.org](mailto:titles@dogscouts.org)

# NEW Merit Badges!

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

## Canine Cognition



The Canine Cognition badge uses various exercises that show us different dimensions to how our dog's brains work and how we can use that knowledge to teach new skills. This badge builds upon knowledge gained in the Copy Cat badge. It uses the concept of "fast-mapping" to teach the dog object, color and shape discrimination, object matching, to read cue cards and to count up to three. Additionally, we demonstrate the "I know you know" concept, where the dog acts based upon his confidence that the handler knows and can communicate accurate information to him.

Cognition is the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. Fast-mapping is a way of learning; it's the hypothesized mental process whereby a new concept is learned based only on minimal exposure to a given unit of information. Fast-mapping is often used as a method to teach new words to a very young child. It's also a way to aid in memory recovery in adult patients who have experienced some type of brain injury. In much the same way we can use the concept to teach dogs new skills. Fast-mapping requires the dog to make conclusions based on immediate context, and then confirming or revising the conclusion as additional knowledge is acquired.

Using fast-mapping to teach new information to our dogs does not involve any "tricks", for example, where a dog appears to be reading a cue card but is really responding to a different, subtle cue. Instead, it's a way to use contrast and context to teach our dogs the ability to follow cues in ways not previously imagined.

## GeoScenting

As Dog Scouts, we already know the fun of taking our dogs with us as we look for hidden geocaches. So what could be more fun than searching for a cache with our ever-faithful companion nearby? How about, instead, letting our dogs do the searching while THEIR ever-faithful companion is nearby!



There are few things that a dog loves more than searching. That is one of the reasons that multiple dog sport venues have made nose work competitions a huge industry. The downside of these competitions is that it takes a village to hold a trial and it can be costly traveling from city to city in search of trials. GeoScenting is for you and your dog. You don't need anyone else. It's inexpensive, simple, and fun. If you are a serious competitor looking for something to do to hone your skills between competitions, or simply someone looking for another fun thing to do with your dog, this is your sport.

GeoScenting is a sport that combines geocaching and scent discrimination, using clove oil to scent a geocache. Once in the vicinity of the cache, the dog makes the find by acquiring the odor and reporting the find with a trained indication. Since your GPS already gives you the general location, you can control the size of the search area based on your dog's ability. It's very simple and fun.

In addition to finding GeoScent caches, the badge requires the handler to create and then (accompanied by the dog) to place two scented caches. These caches are to be posted on geocaching.com just as regular caches are using a specific naming convention to identify them. In this way, DSA is developing a new type of geocaching that we hope will catch on with the general geocaching population. The first GeoScent caches have already been placed in Michigan and are published on geocaching.com.

Thanks to Bob Deeds and members of Troop 119 for developing the GeoScenting concept and providing the information needed to create the badge materials.

# Dog Scout Class of 2022

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

One of the things that I love best about DSA is celebrating the achievements of our dogs. This is especially rewarding when I am able to recognize those dogs who have recently achieved the Dog Scout title. The class of 2022 is off to a great start and I can't wait to see how this class will grow by the end of the year.

Here are the dogs we have welcomed as Dog Scouts so far this year.



Ace Lampert  
Troop 217, MI



Bobby Loye-Bucy  
Almont, MI



Kiltie Loye-Bucy  
Almont, MI



Dayton Armstrong,  
Troop 198, CA



Memphis Armstrong,  
Troop 198, CA



Finn Angel  
Edmonds, WA



Luna Gumbin  
Troop 198, CA



Willa Gamage  
Fork Union, VA



Basil Gamage  
Fork Union, VA



Trevor Lane,  
Troop 198, CA



Quinlin Blue Turnbow  
Troop 119, TX

# Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

## Troop 101—MI

*Goldy Reid (with help from Fay)*

TROOP 101 Northern Michigan Trailblazers spent some time over the past few months doing community outreach.

March: Members of Troop 101 represented DSA in the Bay City St. Patty's Day Parade. Since it was our 1<sup>st</sup> parade in Bay City, we wanted to make sure we weren't too close to loud noises and the parade chair said we were behind the 4H group (which usually have horses and some animals on a float) and a soccer group behind us. We figured we would be ok with farm animals and never gave the soccer group another thought. The day of the parade came and after waiting over an hour for the parade to start our dogs were awesome with the baby goats never giving them a second look. The soccer balls being thrown around behind us was another thing all together and it had a few of our dogs on high alert. It was a beautiful March day for Michigan and we handed out some business cards and chatted with some attendees.



Some of our troop members have set goals this year of completing some of the badges we have started over the last few years. To this end, Jax and Molly completed their Massage badge and Booker completed his Naked Obedience badge.

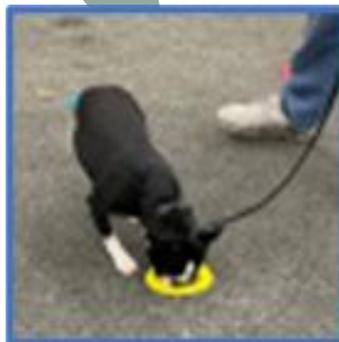
Troop 101—MI (cont.)



Members working on the beginning of Rally RrEe Signs & moves



We continue to practice our scent work for various scent badges



## Troop 101—MI (cont.)



Some members of Troop 101 & 217 have spent the last 4 months carving stamps for the Power of Paws-itivity letterboxing event we hosted on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bay City State Park in Bay City MI. We focused the event on positive training, DSA, backpacking—items needed to be on the trails with your dogs, and K9 nutrition with a little Disney & Michigan history thrown in. We collected over 600 pounds of dog food and 140 pounds of cat food along with 60 dog toys over 50 pet beds, blankets and towels for three shelters in the area. And the \$534 cash that was donated was converted into dog food for the local shelters.

We had lots of good comments and people liked meeting the dogs and learning about their badges and the dog scout mission. We gave presentations on K9 nutrition and people were able to get a stamp of the badge. Congratulations to those that completed their requirements for the K9 nutrition badge and one or several of the Letterboxing badges and titles. We had people stopping by that were not at the event but just saw the dogs in their uniforms and wondered what was going on.



*"Letterboxing and hiking with dogs is ideal, but one thing I learned from this event is that letterboxers are great. I made friends, shared ink pads, exchanged signature stamps and discussed finds with some really nice people who now know about Dog Scouts."*

— BorderCottage a.k.a. Martha & Maia Thierry, Troop 217

## Troop 101—MI (cont.)



Collecting and delivering donations to



Amazing Grace



Humane Society



and Shelter Angels

***Giving Back to DSA:*** Troop 101 & 217 members helping clean up the MI camp and clearing the trails for some summer time fun.

# Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has gotten off to a great start in 2022! We are so happy to be back to having regular troop meetings which we have missed off and on over the last couple of years. We have kicked off '22 with some new troop members and we're enjoying seeing them get involved in DSA and having fun and learning with their pups.

In **January** we enjoyed introducing the new Urban Hiking merit badge to the troop.

We got together on a beautiful January day for a mapped out urban hike through the beautiful campus of the University of Texas—Arlington. The campus was so clean that we had to stage trash on the ground for “leave it” but came prepared with a fast food bag that contained a burger wrapper and a couple of tater tots. The dogs did a great job with the “leave it”, as well as all elements of the new badge.

The dogs and their people all really seemed to enjoy hiking in a new environment with new challenges. We logged 2 miles and the dogs have since been working on (and many completing) their remaining miles to earn the badge.



## Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



**February** brought around a favorite event sooner than usual. Because the “other” Olympics got off schedule due to the COVID situation, we had our Doggie Winter Olympics less than a year following last summer’s Doggie Summer Olympics. We had another great day in the great outdoors for the fun competition. We had some great competitors and all the dogs earned either a gold, silver or bronze medal.

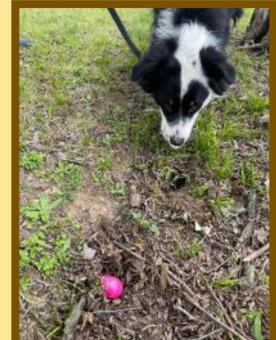


## Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

In **March**, we introduced Disaster Preparedness in anticipation of storm season. We talked through all the things to be aware of and prepared for in all sorts of emergencies. The dogs were all very well behaved while their people learned and shared experiences and tips. The dogs then began the first steps of learning an emergency stop. Troop members are continuing to work on elements of the badge, but most importantly feel more equipped to care for themselves and their dogs in preparation of scary scenarios.

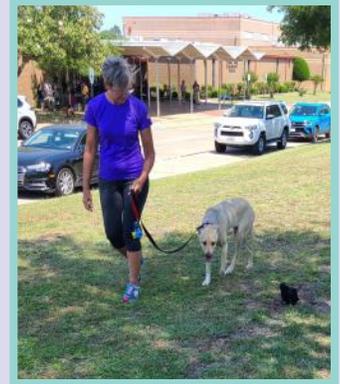


**April** brought another favorite event – the troop’s annual Easter Egg Hunt! We gathered at YMCA Camp Carter to hunt approximately 670 plastic eggs with freeze-dried liver treats. Prizes were given for dogs who found the special prize eggs with the little chicks inside and for those who found the most eggs. We also had our annual Easter festive costume contest. Dogs or dogs together with their humans were encouraged to show off their festiveness. Prizes were given for first, second and third place and we all enjoyed the costume parade.



## Troop 119—N TX (cont.)

In **May** we had a Dog Scout class and worked on checking off elements of the Dog Scout certification.



As a result we have a new troop Dog Scout! Scarlet Curtis completed all the requirements to pass her certification. Proud mom is Lenda Curtis.

Additionally, we have several dogs that were able to get several check offs done and will be able to complete their certifications in the near future..



We also have two new therapy dogs in the troop!

Bridgette Francis (pictured left) & Charlie Clark (pictured above) are both new therapy dogs and will be spreading comfort and joy “on the job” in their communities.

Congratulations to their moms, Donna Francis and Maegan Clark.

Registration is now open for DSA Texas Mini-Camp for our 18<sup>th</sup> year! We have a few spots still available and welcome meeting new DSA members. We will have seven states represented this year and would love to have some folks come on down from others! We promise you a fun time of learning with your dog, as well as some good ol’ southern hospitality.

Check out details on the website at <http://dogscouts.org/base/camp-info/tx-mini-camp/> or details and photos on the [main DSA Facebook](#) page.

# Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

## 2022 DOGGIE OLYMPICS



[WWW.DSATROOP157.ORG](http://WWW.DSATROOP157.ORG)

On April 16th, 2022 our troop's Dog Scout Olympics took place at Heritage Park. Our troop looks forward to this event each year as it is fun time for everyone to interact with fellow troop members and play games with their Dog Scouts. We had brunch brought in from Einstein's. The weather was perfect and we made sure there was a game for everyone, which made for an enjoyable time by all participants. Training should always be a game!

Our individual game winners were:

- **Fastest dog - Katie Garcia**
- **Ultimate Stay - River Hanna**
- **Ultimate Leave it - Biscoff**



Additionally since our event was the day before Easter, we held an Easter egg hunt where each team was given 5 plastic Easter eggs to put treats into to hide for their dog. Another example of how training can be fun. We also held a raffle as we do each year to replenish troop funds. We had a great time as always!

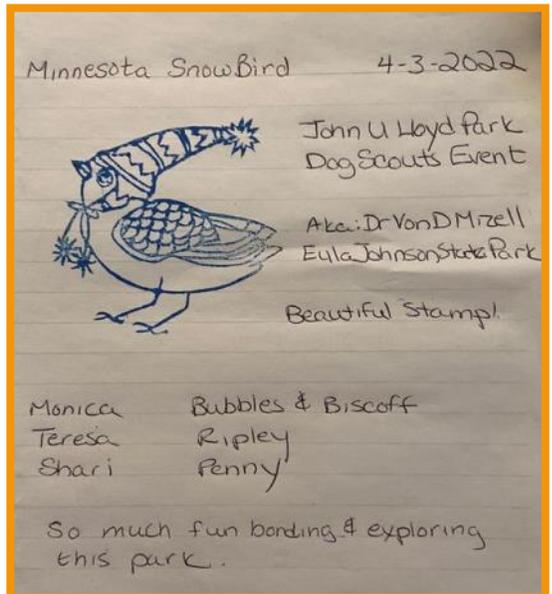


## Troop 157—FL (cont.)

### Letterboxing at John Lloyds State Park

On April 3, several of us met at Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson (A.K.A. John Lloyds) State Park located in Dania Beach, FL to check out and try to find some letterboxes for the first time. With letterboxing clues in hand Dawn and River, Christine and Clover, Monica and Biscoff, Shari and Penny, Teresa and Ripley set off to try to find a few letterboxes.

As you may know it is not as easy as you think to find the letterbox, even if you feel you nailed all the clues in the riddle. For example, on our 1<sup>st</sup> letterbox hunt we felt we were definitely in the right spot and Dawn bravely climbed under the wooden walkway to hunt for it. Even so, it was nowhere to be found, so we figured that due to its location and because it was planted several years ago it was possible the letterbox could have been carried away by water or creature.



However, all was not lost because for the next letterbox the Scout teams were able to follow the clues and happily found the Minnesota Snowbird hidden under a large rock. It turned out to be a fun day and adventure with our Dog Scouts.

Afterwards we strolled along the beachside of the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and took in all it has to offer—ocean breeze and the sound of the waves hitting the shoreline. And the best part is we had our canine companions by our side to experience it with us.

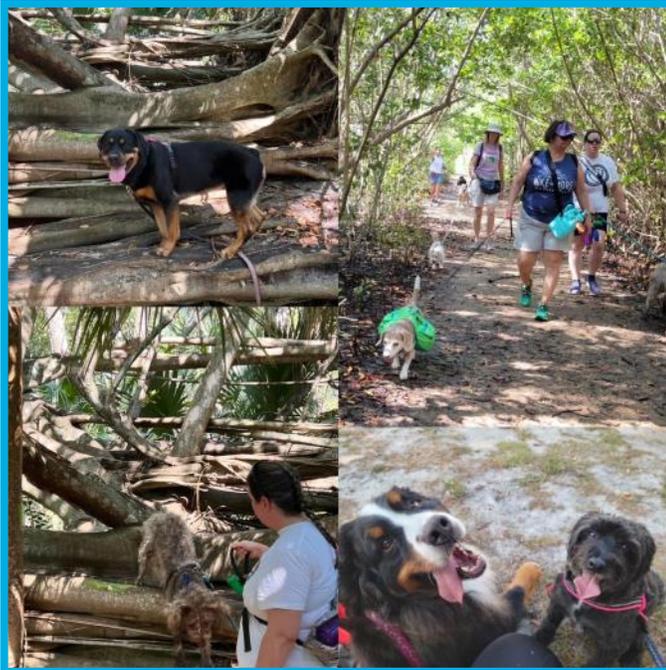
## Troop 157—FL (cont.)



## Hiking and Letterboxing at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

On May 14, we enjoyed a hike and letterboxing at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale.

The first item on our agenda was to find a letterbox that was located near the entrance. Scout teams Christine and Clover, Andrea and Katie, Shari and Penny, Monica, Bubbles and Biscoff, Patricia and Luna, Emily and Aurora, and Dawn and River, followed the letterbox clues and we easily found our letterbox. We each stamped our log books and then moved on to enjoy the hiking trails of this beautiful park located between the intracoastal waterway and the beach.



Shari and Dawn along with Penny and River extended our hike to include the lake and the ruins of the old train ride. Our Broward native, Shari, remembered this ride from her childhood.

We finished the morning with refreshments at the dog friendly outdoor bar and grill called “Park and Ocean” under the shade trees with a view of the ocean. It was Dawn’s birthday and she couldn’t think of a better way to spend her birthday morning!

## May Troop Meeting

On May 27<sup>th</sup> Monica Pajuelo gave an excellent presentation about enrichment with so many great ideas the troop was grateful for all of her fabulous ideas! River loved the great equipment she let us use.

Next up for our Troop will be Letterboxing Stamp carving and July 4<sup>th</sup> Hike and Letterboxing to help wear out our pups before the Fireworks and craziness.



# Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop 177 met on May 15.

We welcomed new member Tara Derisse along with her dog Willow.

After introductions we walked around the ring to help the dogs get accustomed to each other. We practiced skills related to the Disabled Dog badge.

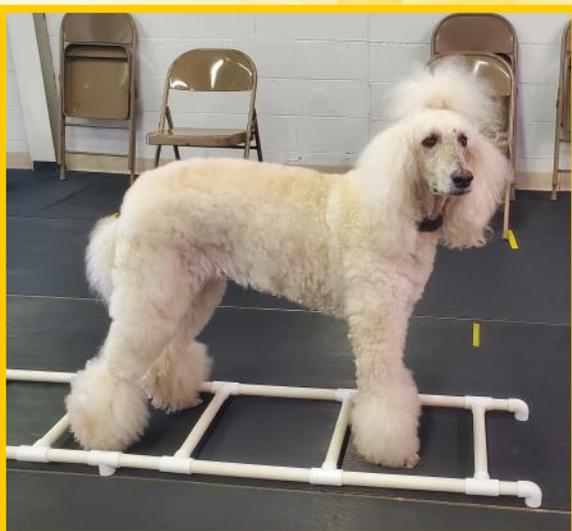


Willow pulls a cart

This was a first chance for Zena and Willow to pull a cart! They both patiently pulled the cart around the ring!



Zena gets fitted with cart



Hallie walks in agility ladder

In attendance were Sharon and Zena, Tara and Willow as well as Robyn and Hallie.

## Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

Troop 183 is continuing to offer Agile, Nosey & Uptown Dog activities each month. Since we're usually busy training, we don't always have phones or cameras out to record our activities, so we had Ariea, Nim and Sandy pose before we headed home after practicing agility wraps for change of direction and body awareness in a local park.

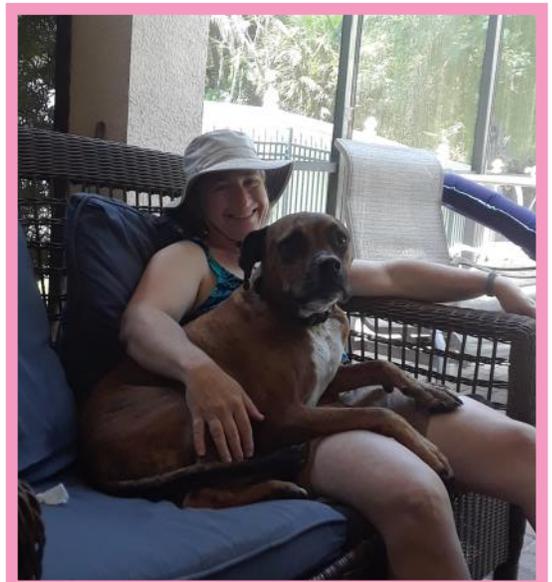


10-Year Old Nim after we got home!

There was some serious self-control at work during one of our Uptown Dog activities.



Marvin and Sandy got to go swimming in May. Marvin did really well jumping in without his best bud, Tachi, to prompt him. Sandy said she preferred the other place where there is a nice long platform to get into the water rather than perching on a step, but she got in a few times and did a little graceful doggie-paddling.



# Troop 198—CA

Janet Ngai

A ton of accomplishments among our fun activities and sad parting this Summer.

## Pack Walks

We enjoyed walks at Martial Cottle Ranch Park for nature smells, as well as Santana Row and Morgan Hill to continue practicing our Urban Hiking merit badge skills.

Rylee intently focused to draw mom Lennie's attention



Crystal and Luna sniffing ahead for mom Carlotta



Trevor the Terrific overseeing Big Bro Duncan, Denise and Jadelynn in typical Corgi-monitoring fashion



Our Trio of White Fluffies, Kokoro with Denise, Wishbone with Donna, and Theo with Lynda feeling tall (for once) while entertaining a visit from Bailey



Two- and four-legged members practicing Sit/Stay at Martial Cottle



## Monthly training at Calero Park

Debby, Maxwell and Memphis celebrating St. Paddy's Day



Bob and Dayton, Jadelynn and Daphne, Denise and Kokoro, and Sondra and Kozmo doing their coursework



Sadie and Rylee decked out in their Easter gear with mom Lennie



Sprocket and Crystal show off that their real ears are almost as big as their bunny ears



## Troop 198—CA (Cont.)

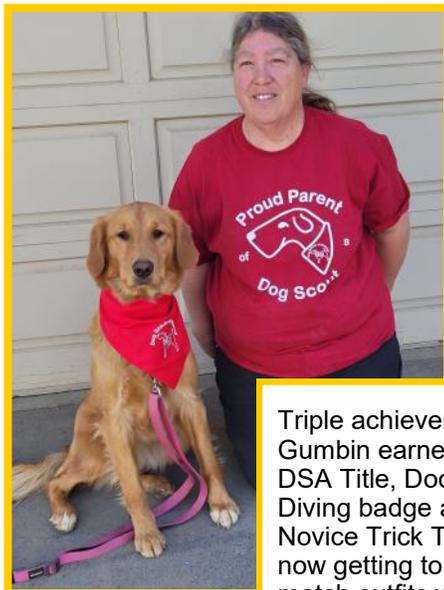
### Happy achievements



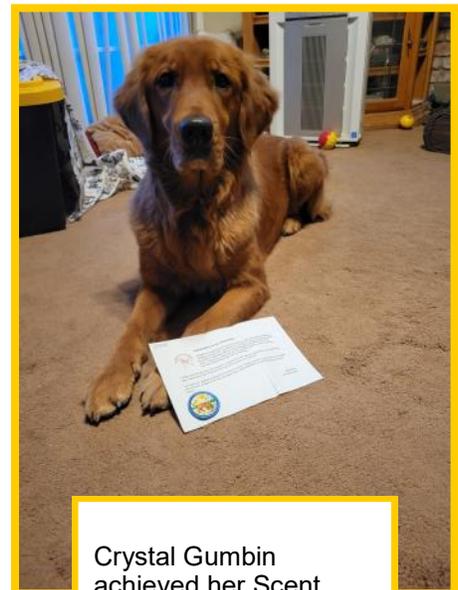
Dayton Armstrong received his flyball merit badge, qualified for his Therapy Dog 1 and Therapy Dog 2 (reading) badges, and brother, Memphis, joined him to pass their DSA tests, earning their DSA Titles



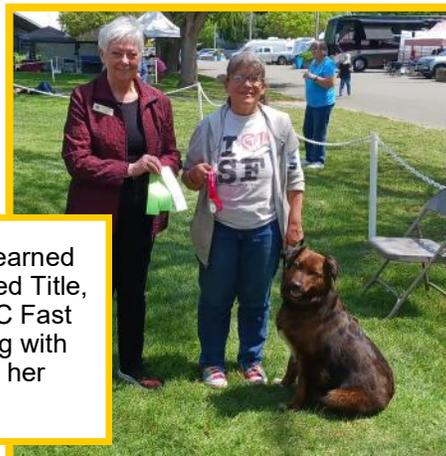
Wishbone Johns passed his 10th supervised visit with LOAL to earn his certification as a therapy pet, while Trevor Lane earned the 3rd Dog Scout Title in the Lane family, and passed his Love On A Leash Control evaluation, both posing here with their moms and role model Duncan



Triple achiever Luna Gumbin earned her DSA Title, Dock Diving badge and Novice Trick Title, now getting to match outfits with mom Carlotta



Crystal Gumbin achieved her Scent Discrimination badge



Asia Phillips DiFilippo earned her AKC Rally Advanced Title, and completed her AKC Fast CAT BCAT Title, posing with proud mom Jackie and her ribbons

## Troop 198—CA (Cont.)

Rusty Phillips DiFilippo earned his AKC Fast CAT DCAT Title, showing off his Ready to Rocket look here



Elton Phillips DiFilippo earned his CGC and AKC Urban Dog Titles, looking quite the Urban Gent here



Cider Gee passed his Love On A Leash Control evaluation, and started with an Easter visit to a rehab center supervised by Hana and Wishbone



## Sad Passing



Troop 198 is sad to share that Elle Belle Weaver, 17, has crossed the Rainbow Bridge. As a puppy, Elle Belle was dumped at a Santa Clara County Park; Ranger Blake found her and brought her home. Because Elle Belle was such a great dog, Blake started leading community dog hikes with her as a County Parks program. That's how we met them, which led to our annual weekend Dog Scout Camp, and eventually Ranger Blake joined Dog Scouts. Blake and her pack won the costume contest at our Troop Halloween party last year, all dressed up in tuxedos and coming as a "Formal Apology".

Elle Belle had lost her hearing, so Blake taught all her dogs sign language -- the perfect example that a dog is never too old to learn new things. This little dog changed and enriched so many lives, we will miss her dearly.



# Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop set a goal at the beginning of the year to hike as a group at least once per month in a location that is new to all of us. This has led us to find some new and interesting places to hike and has taken us all over SE Michigan. Our March hike took us to a beautiful park NW Ohio on one of the coldest days of the year! In April we explored a park covering a vast area and planted a letterbox along the way, and in May we hiked a much smaller community park. Each of these hikes has been very different, yet all quite enjoyable. Our approach has kept our hikes interesting and I'm looking forward to exploring new and varied areas during the remainder of the year.



One of our focuses as a troop has been scent work, and we had a really fun afternoon of learning in April. Though all of the dogs were at different levels in their training, we made sure to provide games that were geared towards each dog's needs. It was really fun to see how some of the dogs progressed really quickly, while others freshened their skills with new challenges. Our newest Dog Scout, Ace Lampert moved very quickly from simple games to complex hides with a lot of success. I think he's going to be an "Ace" at using his nose.

## Troop 217 (cont.)



Along with my girls, Katie and Mackenzie, Michelle Neu with Pumpkin and I teamed up with members of Troop 101 last year to plan a letterboxing event and we were really excited to hold this event at the beginning of May.

We got together mid-month to plant more than 100 letterboxes in Bay City State park, and though we walked many, many miles, we had a blast hiking the trails, doing parkour, and visiting with friends.

The event was a lot of work, with months of stamp carving but was quite rewarding as we included a focus on K9 Nutrition by educating the public and collecting dog food for local shelters and rescue groups.



Our troop recently lost a special member, Sky Cranston, quite unexpectedly to cancer. It's always hard to lose our furry kids, but is especially hard when this ugly disease takes them from us. Sky was a joyful dog who excelled at tricks and was always ready to try new things. She loved our troop hikes and I will always remember her searching my pockets for the smallest crumb of a leftover dog treat. I'm so sorry that Sky never got to complete her Drill Team badge, something that she and her mom Diane were working very hard to achieve. We will miss you Sky.



# Troop 237—East Bay, CA

Ruth Robinson—Troop Leader



## Mama Earth Needs Dog Scouts!

Troop 237 participated in the community service project for Earth Day, April 21, 2022.

Troop members including our doggos helped with weed pulling and fire safety abatement at the Contra Costa Civic Theater in El Cerrito, California. Past work was done on the Ohlone Greenway.



*We pulled weeds, and removed dry grass, and we'll be back for more Earth Day efforts in 2023.*



Previous service projects included a donation drive for a local animal rescue, thrift store. Berkeley Humane is the beneficiary in Berkeley, California. Dogs are welcome to shop with their owners, and every purchase helps a rescued animal, either with re-homing, behavior help, medical help, and just a lot of love.

## Troop 237 (Cont.)

### Community Building within our Troop



Each month we meet for a mostly social time with other members and dogs. This is an important part of building links, keeping connections and encouraging participation in Dog Scouts.



**Troop Meetings . . . Learning, Laughing, Leading our Dogs to "do more"**

### **Doggie Olympics,**

Proofing a "Sit" (harder than it sounds!), Learning What it Takes to Be a Therapy Dog and a Dog Scout...were some of our activity themes this spring.

#### **Ball Lottery**

Dogs retrieve balls that have been numbered. The dog that collects the highest total wins.



#### **Marathon Down**

Marathon Down will test your dog's obedience and concentration. After handlers place their dogs in the down position, various distractions will be presented to the dogs. The dogs that remain down the longest win.

*Tykie the Down-stay Winner - takes Gold Metal.*

## Troop 237 (Cont.)



Proofing a Sit! First, you check out the basic skill. Then, try the command with your dog looking at your back and only able to hear your words. Now that's a bit harder! Next, down-stay, move away, about 20 feet, then give both hand and verbal 'sit' command. Got it yet?

### Tail Wagging

Can you get your dog so happy that he'll wag his tail just from hearing the names of fruits and vegetables? Two teams line up on opposite sides of the ring with handlers facing their dogs and dogs' tails facing inward. The team with the best tail-waggers advances to a wag-off to determine the wagging champion.

### You Can Dress 'Em Up Relay

How fast can you get your dog dressed? In the You Can Dress 'Em Up Relay, handlers and dogs race to a box of clothing, where dogs must be dressed in a t-shirt with one leg through each sleeve, and a scarf. Dogs are then heeled back to the starting line (to tag the next team member). The fastest dog/human team wins the heat.



**Troop fave: Pack Walks! We learn good manners, proof our recalls and practice off-leash manners.**



# Rainbow Bridge: A Little Peek Into Ruby's Adventures

By Stacey Spanovich Damm

When we visited the shelter (August 31, 2008), we looked at the cutest, sweetest little dog in one of the kennels. She looked up at us and gave us her paw, choosing us to take her home. She was very shy and her tail was tucked tightly—she wouldn't even take treats in the shelter. The shelter staff told us that she was found wandering on the side of a rural road and a lady had picked her up and brought her to a shelter. She was skinny and very scared. Her age was estimated between two and three years old.



Once the adoption was finalized, she got a pink collar and leash, and we walked down the hallway to the door. She seemed to get a little bounce in her step along the way, and the shelter caregivers were cheering that “Liz Taylor” (the name they'd given her) was getting a home. We changed her name to Ruby before we even left the shelter.



Ruby and I started basic training classes at a nearby pet store (September 2008). She did exceptionally well. She had lots of energy and was amazing at learning new things. A year later we started taking agility classes (September 2009). We never intended to compete—it was just for fun, however, in June 2010 we were talked into our first agility trial and were hooked! Ruby did great! She earned her teacup agility championship title (TACH) in October 2013!

Ruby joined Dog Scouts of America in the Fall of 2012. She earned the title of Dog Scout in January 2013. July 2013 was our first-time attending Dog Scout Camp (mini-camp in Maryland). We learned so much! It was one of the best adventures ever! Ruby earned several merit badges at camp that year. We were able to attend several more DSA mini-camps and virtual camps (during COVID), and we continued learning and badge-earning for the rest of her life, earning a total of 25 merit badges!

January 2014 started out scary when Ruby was diagnosed with meningitis. Luckily, she recovered with the help of wonderful veterinarians and nurses. We also learned that she had developed intervertebral disk disease, which is common in long-backed dogs. In 2015 Ruby started physical therapy, which was a tremendous help for her back and, later, arthritis.

Ruby earned her Trick Dog Championship Title (TDCh) through Do More With Your Dog in 2016.



## Rainbow Bridge: A Little Peek Into Ruby's Adventures (cont.)

Ruby had started to learn scent work in 2012, but we didn't really pursue it much. When we were re-introduced to it later, Ruby loved it! In 2018 we started taking classes and competing in C-WAGS Scent Work trials. Ruby did great! She earned the title of Super Sleuth in March 2020, which is a very appropriate title for her.



Ruby was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma (blood vessel cancer) in May 2019. She had major surgery to remove a tumor and reconstruct the area where the tumor was removed. She had chemotherapy from June through September 2019. We slowly started doing more activities as her health improved.

When the COVID pandemic closed everything, we weren't able to attend classes or trials, but we continued to play scent games at home. She loved it. We also worked on her tricks, Dog Scout activities, physical therapy, and went on short hikes. We started playing scent games almost every day, sometimes she'd ask to do scent work several times a day!



Unfortunately, the cancer returned, unexpectedly, and grew rapidly. Her exams and tests in March 2022 showed no signs of cancer, but she collapsed in May 2022. The veterinarians were able to remove fluid from around her heart and tests showed a tumor on her heart. She was with us for 11 more days. We were able to spoil her as much as she could handle.

Ruby would try anything, especially if treats were involved! She was the most amazing little girl. She wanted to keep going, learning, and doing fun things with us. I wish she could have.



# Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: [dogscouts.org](http://dogscouts.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/DogScouts](https://facebook.com/DogScouts)

Instagram: [instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/](https://instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/)

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8o38)

[#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** — [president@dogscouts.org](mailto:president@dogscouts.org)  
(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

**Dog Scout Camp (MI): Lonnie Olson** — [DogScoutCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DogScoutCamp@gmail.com)  
(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, **Sparky's Camp Store**, Camp Scholarships)

**Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)  
(Memorial recognition and engraving)

**Membership: Shirley Conley** — [membership@dogscouts.org](mailto:membership@dogscouts.org)

**Troop Administration: troops@dogscouts.org**  
(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

**Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting** — [bwhitingdsa@comcast.net](mailto:bwhitingdsa@comcast.net)

## MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**Video Evaluation:** [DSAVideoEval@gmail.com](mailto:DSAVideoEval@gmail.com)

**Evaluator Certification:** **Chris Kloski** — [ChrisBill1966@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBill1966@gmail.com)

## TITLES/COMPETITIONS

**Titles/Competition Registration Number:** **Kristie Iwamoto** — [titles@dogscouts.org](mailto:titles@dogscouts.org)

**Hosting/Competing:** **Sally Hoyle** — [president@dogscouts.org](mailto:president@dogscouts.org)

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(Also for newsletter distribution)