

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 26 Issue 2 ~ Summer 2023

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

Rainbow Bridge
P30



What are your summer plans?

DSA is hosting Flat Sparky's Funner Summer virtual event the whole month of July and two sessions of Michigan Camp in August.

You still have time to join the summer fun . . . See page 2

Notes from National

- Flat Sparky—July Virtual Event P2
- Michigan Camp in August! P2
- Attitude of Gratitude P3
- Save the Date! Fall Roundup P3
- Get Shirty with DSA! P4
- New Boathouse at MI Camp P4
- Many Hands Make Light Work P5
- New Dog Scouts P6

**Scout Scoop
& Troop Talk**
P8

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

September 1st

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

FLAT SPARKY'S FUNNER SUMMER '23



DON'T FORGET!

Registration for
Flat Sparky's
"Funner" Summer
closes on July 6, 2023.

This virtual fundraiser
provides you with
activities and excuses to
celebrate summer with your
dog every week in July!
Registration is \$30

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

What are you and your dog doing for fun this summer?

It's not too late to plan a trip to Michigan for one or both sessions of Dog Scout Camp?



Michigan camp was created specifically for fun and learning with DOGS! It has its own pond, fenced agility field, several fenced play areas, hiking trails (including a portion of the "Up North Canine" trail with natural obstacles made out of logs), craft barns, where you'll teach your dog to paint, or give your pup a rest while you engage in a dog-themed craft for humans.

If you're into letterboxing or geocaching, there are plenty of those hidden on and around the property. There are even some new, Geoscented caches that you can have your dog help you find.

Of course, there are a bunch of merit badges that you can earn with your dog. Some of this year's new topics are two new scenting badges, and a new contactless agility badge. Plus, you'll have plenty of sun, shade, sand and bugs at no extra charge!

Our excellent staff will be here to guide you and your dog through many fun activities and games.

There are multiple choices for lodging. Everything from a tent to a 50 amp RV site, to a shared or a private room in the lodge, to a private cabin (all very near the main camp activities). Your dog will stay with you in the lodging of your choice.

Sign up now at <http://dogscouts.org/base/camp-info/mi-dog-scout-camp/>

Session 1: August 11-15

Session 2: August 16-20

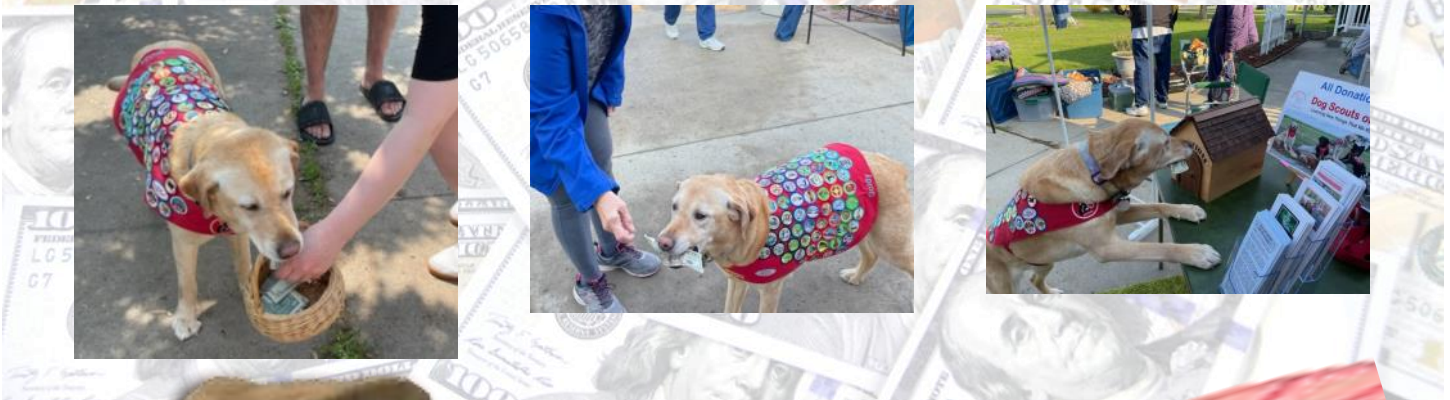
Attitude of Gratitude

Thank you to Troop 101 member Fay Reid and Goldy who recently pup-sat another troop member's dog while on an extended vacation.

Payment for that pupsitting was donated to DSA!

Goldy is one great fundraiser! She was also personally responsible for obtaining the most donations at Troop 101's garage sale (proceeds going to the National DSA). People were handing Goldy \$20 bills and telling her to keep the change, for just a handful of items. We're grateful to the people who have never seen a dog who would happily take their money and return it to the paying station, or bring them their change.

Goldy, you are amazing!



*Save
the
date*

The Fall Round Up at MI Camp will be Friday, October 20 with dinner and ending Sunday, October 22. People are welcome to stay over until Monday as well.

This year's event has a western theme and should be a lot of fun with plenty of games and activities.

Participants at this event pay only for lodging. Food is managed with communal meals which everyone contributes to. Everyone is welcome to attend!

YEEHAW!! GIDDY UP TO MI!

Get Shirty with DSA!

We're doing it again!

Realizing that not everyone loves Red shirts, or the current color of some of the other shirts, Sparky's Boutique and Outfitters is once again offering the chance to PREORDER almost any shirt in any size and in any style or color.

Shirt Designs available are:

In 100% pre-shrunk cotton (or as close to 100% as possible)

DSA Logo shirt short sleeved (white silkscreening)

DSA Logo long sleeved (white silkscreening)

DSA Logo Zippered Hoodie (white silkscreening)

Proud Parent of a Dog Scout (short sleeved, white silkscreening)

Choose Your Own Adventure (short Sleeved, white and black silkscreening)



Also available are the above shirts in the Sport Tek Material

The colors available for each style of shirt are available online here:

[Cotton Shirt Short Sleeved](#)

[Cotton Shirt Long Sleeved](#)

[Sport Tek Shirt](#)

To avoid errors in ordering, we are putting the shirts online for you to pre-order. This means that we can't place the order until we have all of the special orders in, so your patience is appreciated.

Prices have not been confirmed by our vendor yet, so we'll email everyone once the shirts go live at the store and provide you with the deadline for order them. After the deadline, the order form will be taken off the camp store although the stock colors will still be available.

This will be your chance to order sizes that we don't carry a lot of in the camp store. When making your order, please remember to select a size and color from the drop-down menus.

Prices will automatically adjust the price for the XX, XXX, and XXXX sizes, which cost a little more per "X."



Building A Boathouse!

The Michigan Dog Scout Camp is getting a new boathouse. The old wooden one was slowly being eaten by animals attracted to the glue holding the plywood together.

We removed a couple of dead trees, laid and leveled a sand base, then local DSA members came up to help assemble the new plastic building. It will be nice when we can store our kayaks, paddleboard, and power tools in there.

Thanks to Vickie Lomas, Fay Reid, Sally Hoyle, and others who may yet pitch in and help Lonnie finish the shed.



Many Hands (and paws) make light the work...



Over the winter, a friend of DSA, Frank Oertel came up a few times and did quite a lot of volunteer work around here. He started a project to erect a Sun Sail which is waterproof and will go over the wood-pile to keep it dry. He cut the trees himself, draw-shaved the bark off of them, charred the part that will be underground, dug the post holes, and erected the poles that will support the Sun Sail.

Our former chief Handyman, Jack Lavoy was around doing his normal stuff, but now he does it as a volunteer, instead of getting paid. He takes care of the scary stuff, like keeping the snow load off the lodge, and cleaning out the gutters. God Bless him! What would we do without these generous volunteers?

May 12-14 we held the first clean-up weekend to prepare the Michigan camp for the season. Having volunteers come and do the work helps DSA in a big way, as we do not have to pay to have this work done.

During the clean-up weekend, several volunteers from Troop 101 drove up to camp and stayed (for free) in the lodging of their choice. DSA provided one meal each day, and the rest was potluck fare provided by the volunteers. This year was a little different, because we tossed in our monthly troop meeting on Sunday afternoon, where we received a presentation about IMPROV Obedience from Lonnie, and demonstrations from each of the dogs to show what they have to do for either the badge or the title. Everyone participated, including Vickie's new pup, Remy, and Walden, who was being babysat by Fay while his mom, Joanne was in Hawaii. Molly Long and Booker Keel met the qualifications for the IMPROV merit badge. They both did an amazing job of showing how a dog and handler can solve difficult tasks together.

Also a new twist to the weekend activities was that we paused after lunch on Saturday to make dog treats. Lonnie got everyone a spoon with a paw print cut out of it that we used to push into the cookies and make a paw design.



Aside from the fun, we really put our noses to the grindstone and cleaned the whole lodge (including all the rooms), raked up all the leaves around the outsides of the lodge, picked up all of the sticks that have blown down over the winter, cleaned up the trails, cut some larger trees out of the trail, put out the poop buckets, cleaned up the fenced dog play area, and got the trees off the fence, burned some brush, cleaned up the cabins and supplied them with cleaning supplies, etc. We got a lot done in a few days, and we managed to take our dogs for several walks, too!

Big thanks to those who could attend: Fay Reid, Kaylene Long, Laurie Keel, Vickie Lomas, and Lonnie Olson.

New Dog Scouts! Congratulations!

By Sally Hoyle, President

We have many members working on the requirements for the Dog Scout title with their dogs, and with so many new puppies and recently adopted dogs, we are sure to see plenty of new Dog Scouts in the future.

Please help me celebrate those dogs who recently earned this title. We all know what an achievement it is to become a Dog Scout!



Sandia Kircher
Los Alamos, NM



Gracie Hunt, Troop 217
Saint Clair Shores, MI



Murphy Dutkofski, Troop 119
Ft. Worth, TX



Badger Strathman
Winthrop Harbor, IL



Ryelee Randall, Troop 198
Gilroy, CA



Reese Krueger, Troop 243
Waupaca, WI

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI

Fay Reid (with help from Goldy)

Troop 101 started out March with an Easter egg hunt for treats. A question for you that we asked ourselves. “What can you do with a basket?”. Here are some ideas we came up with: You can take something out of it, put something in it, Pick it up, Hold it, carry it, sit with it in your mouth, hold it while someone puts something in it, go around it, get in it. Can you come up with anything else? We decided the dogs have to be comfortable taking things and holding different items in their mouths before we ask them to try a basket. She-Ra works on holding a pen. Molly & Booker hold it, Razzle holds it while mom puts an Easter Egg in it. Molly goes around it and walks in heel with it.



Goldy demonstrates some Rally FrEe moves and the troop practices it.



Members of Troop 101 and 217 participated in the Bay City MI, St. Patty's Parade. We met & talked with many people including a Dinosaur, Smokey the Bear and the Queen.

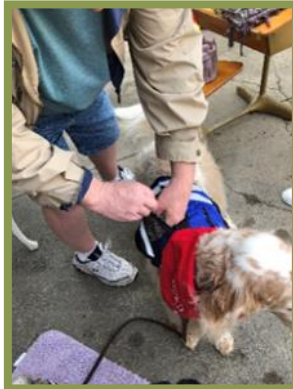


At our April meeting we were lucky to meet our newest member Remy Lomas. She is an adorable chocolate lab pup that traveled from Missouri to live in Michigan. She appears to like adventure which is wonderful because her mom Vickie loves to travel.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Members of troop 101 decided to do a little spring cleaning and have a Garage Sale to give back to DSA National while working on our Community Service and Fundraising Badges. Some members wanted to do a free will donation. I was surprised at how well we did and that people were very generous. They loved seeing the well-behaved dogs in their uniforms. We handed out a few flyers.



The Rain didn't stop us on Sunday, in between drops we practice some IMPROV behaviors and had down time in the backyard.



Laurie & Booker presented the donations to DSA at the MI Clean Up weekend.

Several of our members participated in the clean up weekend at the MI camp in May. The weather was beautiful and we had a fun time relaxing with our dogs and friends after working all day to clean up the inside and outside of the lodge.

May also brought back our snow birds (Lonnie, Caper, Kismet, & Scallywag) to Michigan. Lonnie agreed to do a presentation on IMPROV. It stands for Impromptu Multifarious Performance Requiring Obedience and Versatility. Sounds a little scary, but in fact is quite fun. It makes you use your creativity and what your dog already knows to get them to do a required task. Part of the badge requirement is to have trained your dog to do a useful behavior and why is it important.

Goldy learned early on to alert to the ringing of my phone, so I encouraged that behavior by putting it on clue. Little did I know how useful that would be. To date she has found my phone multiple critical times when it was turned off. A few examples are when my dad was in the hospital, she found where I had dropped it earlier during the day in a parking lot in a hole and she also found it in a snowbank down the street. What useful behavior will you teach your dog? Congratulations to Booker and Molly who passed earning the badge and Walden is very close. We will be holding another session as some of our troop members could not attend. Did you know IMPROV is also a title.

Goldy & Booker continuing with their therapy work at the Wellsprings Assisted Living & the Bay County Library System and Troop 101 is holding another garage sale June 23 & 24.

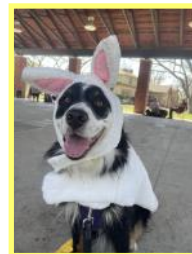
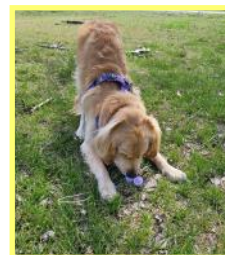
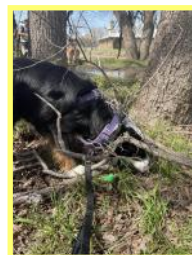
Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had a fun and busy spring!

In March we had a troop favorite – our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Dogs had the opportunity to hunt over 700 eggs over several acres at YMCA Camp Carter. Eggs contained Real Meat lamb treats and the dogs were excited to be rewarded for every egg they found. A dozen or so eggs also had special fuzzy chicks inside. Those who found a chick in their egg got to turn it in for a special prize. Once the dogs finished their egg hunt, we had a Most Festive contest. Panda took first place with her imitation of the Easter Bunny. Dogs and humans enjoyed the time together with their troop friends and Mother Nature.

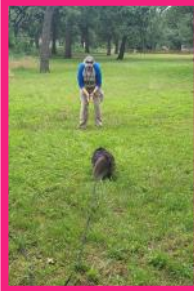
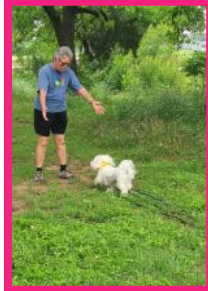


In April, the dogs got to enjoy a very special, very fun troop event. Troop member, Nita Lanter, offered up her horse pasture for a troop lure coursing event. We started pretty early in the morning and had two groups run. The weather turned out to be beautiful and the dogs had a fantastic time! A couple of pooches decided that chasing a plastic bag or a skunk flattie wasn't as interesting as sniffing the pasture or checking out the goats next door so they enjoyed the low key fun and the rest of the dogs turned up the speed and raced around the course like little sports cars! No matter which direction they went, they all had a great time and entertained the humans as a bonus.

May brought a new and fun adventure for the troop! We were contacted by the Dallas Jackals professional rugby team about their Bark in the Park event planned for a game in May. We were given the opportunity to have a fundraiser by getting a portion of any tickets sold through our specific QR code. We also had a booth set up on the concourse to talk to fans about DSA. Then, at halftime, we were able to take to the field and do a painting demo for the fans. Mart got to talk about DSA while the dogs painted and the dogs got their 15 minutes of fame! It was a fun experience and the dogs were rockstars!



Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



The May meeting brought the Dog Scout Class. We had a beautiful spring day in the park and got to work on Dog Scout testing. Troop members whose dogs were already Scouts did a hike at the park and tracked down a geocache. We had several dogs make lots of strides on their testing and get closer to becoming Scouts.

And... one of our newer troop dogs, Phoenix, passed all his requirements to become a Dog Scout! His proud parents are John & Melissa Kaiser.

And we had yet another troop dog, Murphy, finish his Dog Scout certification earlier in the spring. Murphy's proud parents are Jeff & Donna Dutkofski.

Congrats to Murphy, DSA and Phoenix, DSA!



Besides our new Dog Scouts, we have other things to celebrate! Rouen Baker & mom, Debbie, were awarded 2022 Grapevine Public Library Volunteers of the Year for Rouen's therapy work.

In addition to helping kids read at the library, Rouen and her therapy team provide support to members of the Dallas Police Department during shift changes. They are also called in to DPD whenever there is the loss of an officer to provide comfort to the grieving members of the force. Congratulations to Debbie & Rouen for this very meaningful honor.

And last but not least, congratulations to Troop 119 for achieving Top Dog Troop status for 2022! Troop 119 has achieved Top Dog status every year since the program started and we are very proud of our troop! The troop is celebrating its 21st year this year and we are excited to continue to have some of the very best dogs and the bestest people in the whole darn country!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

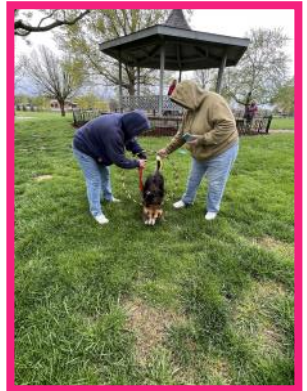
March

The troop met for another hike on a beautiful day. A few of us stayed for lunch on the patio of the restaurant at Creve Coeur Lake. Flat Sparky joined us.



April

In April we met for some fun and games at Des Peres Park. Some hiked a bit in the rain but after it cleared up, the dogs had fun trying different obstacles. Since one of our long-time scouts had recently left us, we honored him. In his name, some items are being donated to the Texas Mini-Camp which he enjoyed so much. And then the dogs had an easter egg hunt. That was their favorite thing!



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

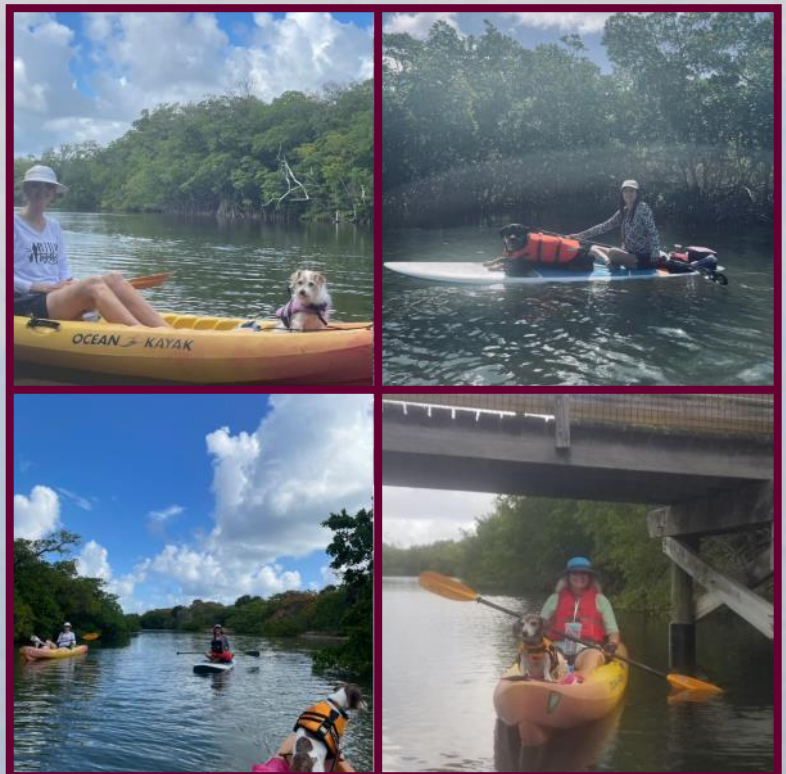
Kayaking Whiskey Creek



On April 8, 2023 our members enjoyed another water adventure, but this time at Whiskey Creek in Dania Beach. Scout teams Teresa and Ripley, Shari and Penny, and Dawn and River paddled around the creek.

The creek is located in Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park surrounded by the beach and ocean to the east and mangroves and the intracoastal waterway on the west.

We enjoyed a relaxing morning watching birds and wildlife, taking in a little history, and the company of each other and our very brave dogs.



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop #177 met on March 12 and practiced a Rally Free mini-course plus took photos of St Patrick's Pot of Gold Rainbow photo backdrop.



Hallie is the treasure at end of the rainbow



Peggy with her two treasures, Zoey Rose and Pennybelle



Willow is the treasure at end of the rainbow

Troop #177 met on April 2 for an Easter egg hunt. Willow and Hallie had great fun seeking plastic Easter eggs that contained Birch Oil on a small piece of tongue depressor. After awful weather and deadly tornadoes recently, we enjoyed this beautiful cool spring day!



Hallie and Willow with Easter basket



Willow poses with an egg!



Hallie with basket full of eggs!



Paws Pack 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



In March we participated in DSA's Flat Sparky's virtual event



Marvin and Tachi have been playing with targets, they want to practice more, but summer has arrived in Florida and it's hard to get the humans outside , they're looking forward to Flat Sparky's Funner Summer in July, they'll have an excuse to work on this more.



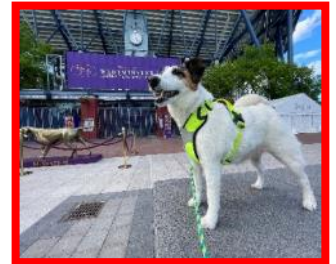
In May the Troop was able to go swimming and have fun tracking

Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Michelle Lake, Co-Leader

Brags & Wags

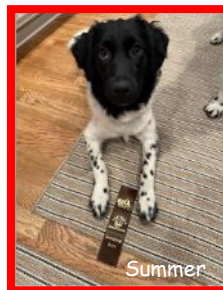
Our troop is howling with pride at having two members invited to the first ever dock diving competition at Westminster Kennel Club! Breeze had the honor of being the very first jump of the day. An 8th place finish in his division meant a trip to the finals where he ended up in 4th place. Meanwhile, Firefly placed 7th in her division, earning a spot in the finals where she also came in 4th. Great showing Scouts! Thank you to member Savannah Simon for the pictures.



Finn has been competing in UKC Conformation and Weight Pull. In April he got Total Dog (Show Win + Sports Win) both days and Most Weight Pulled per pound 3 out of 4 times. He also got Group 2 and Group 3 wins.
Win photos by Lexi D Photography, ring photos by Denali & Co.



At another show Finn got three Group 2s and a Group 4 as well as pulling the most weight (per own body weight) the fastest one of two pulls.



Meanwhile, baby sister Summer earned her Barn Hunt Instinct.



Breeze earned his RATO at a Barn Hunt Trial

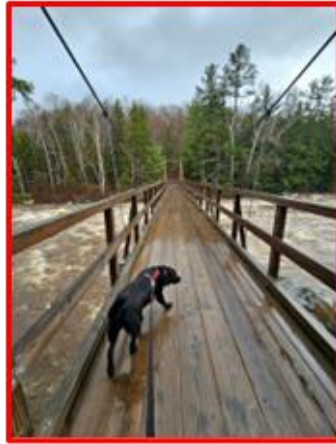


Douglas earned his Expert Trick Dog title from Do More With Your Dog!

Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Firefly continues to rock the dock, managing a 13' jump earning her Dock Master Title!



Mackenzie has been doing lots of hiking and finding waterfalls. She's also doing agility, parkour and therapy visits.



Sawyer and Tucker earned their AKC Community Canine (CGCA) titles. They are also doing agility and urban agility.



Winslow got his Junior Dock Diving title!

Activities

The Ledyard Agriscience Ag Carnival invited the troop to showcase what dogs can do. Some tricks and agility were highlighted.



The Troop visited Berlin Town Hall where we donated five Pet Emergency Breathing Kits to Berlin's first responder stations. This donation was made possible in part by the Lindgren family in loving memory of Ron Lindgren - a dedicated family man and dog lover, who proudly served his community with the South Kensington Fire Department for over 50 years, 9 years as Chief.

Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Our annual Easter Bonnet Contest and Parade was a success. Funds were raised for local pet pantries. We added a scavenger hunt this year and Flat Sparky even made an appearance!



A Mother's Day troop walk was held where we did some parkour, sits, waits, leave it's, walking through crowds and said hello to lots of people.

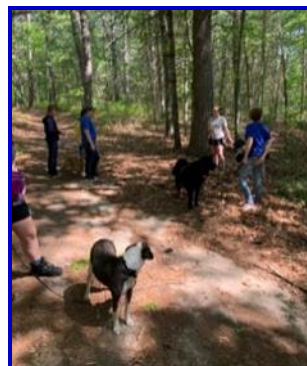


Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Sassy and Thunder went to WOOFest and made a new friend



Thunder has been working on her puppy paddler badge with the help of Sassy and Sara.



The troop took advantage of amazing weather and went on a Memorial Day hike. There were a few water crossings, some swimming, parkour opportunities and lots of tired pups at the end!

Troop 198—CA

Janet Gee

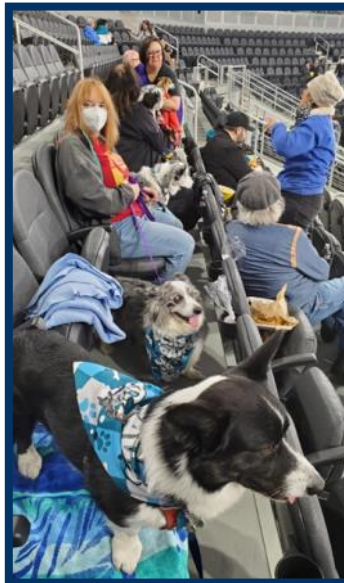
With good weather returning, we had a busy Spring with lots of training activities, fun outings with Sparky, and badges earned!

Flat Sparky

To contribute to the virtual fund-raising event, we enjoyed including Sparky at a wide variety of activities.



Xena, Memphis, Cora, and Seager bring him to a K-9 play yard



Sparky got to root for our San Jose Sharks hockey team with Trevor, Sprocket, Crystal and Hana, who all got the team bandanas

Training at San Jose's Los Paseos Park

Troop leader Carlotta led us through lots of loose leash exercises, with troop members taking turns weaving between others, with new participants, such as Jade and mom Becky, joining as the best distractions



New member Juni excelled at her sit/stay and check-in with the mom Kim, while Xena took her turn with mom Betsy, weaving between cones and standing on a yellow pebbly cushion

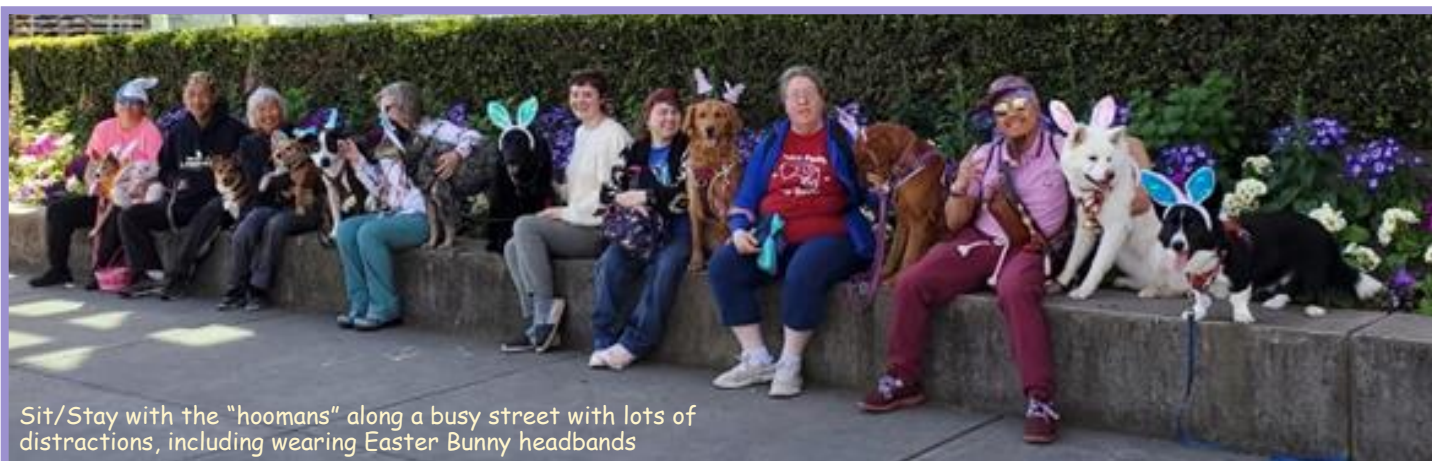
Troop 198—CA (cont.)

More sit/stay demonstrations, with Cider and Jelly in costume at our Easter training



Pack Walks at Santana Row

We worked on our Urban Badge skills at our local outdoor mall.



Sit/Stay with the "hoomans" along a busy street with lots of distractions, including wearing Easter Bunny headbands

Izzy started testing for her Dog Scout badge with mom Rita, both managing to keep the ice cream stand from distracting them



Community Service



At every event this quarter, we collected donations for our local Humane Society Silicon Valley, as they are always in need of towels, blankets, toys, puppy pads, food, and treats.



Accomplishments



After lots of hard work starting last year . . .

Crystal Gumbin received her Dog Scout Merit badges for Travel Safety, Urban Hiking, Therapy Dog, Art of Shaping, Lure Coursing and Community Service,

Bailey earned Travel Safety, Urban Hiking, Scent Discrimination, Art of Shaping and Parkour 1,

Luna earned the same 5 along with Clean Up America and Lure Coursing, and all received their Flat Sparky patches

Trevor Lane (pictured here sporting his hiking gear) earned his Backpack, Pet Therapy Level 1, Clean Up America #2, Lure Course badges, and Flat Sparky patch



Memphis Armstrong earned his Lure badge

Juni became our newest Honorary Pup Scout, welcome to her and pawrents, Kim and Mark



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Thanks to Crystal earning Dog Scout badges in five separate categories, Agility, Community Service, Responsible Pet Parenting, Competitive Sports, and Nose Work, Carlotta received her Bronze level certificate in the Dog Scouts of America Versatile Troop



Thanks to Wyatt having earned Dog Scout badges in five different categories, Agility, Community Services, Obedience, Responsible Pet Parenting and Trails & Outdoors, Leah received her Bronze level certificate in the new Versatile Troop Leader Dog Scout program



Debbie (pictured here with Memphis) received the CA Council of the Blind 2021 Publications Award for “Most Inspirational Article” for her “New Ways to Bond with One’s Guide.”

Rainbow Crossings

Gus, our honorary Guinea Pig Scout and Leave It with Critter assistant (shown here between his parents), crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We appreciate his service to our troop



New Ways to Bond with One's Guide

By Deborah Armstrong

Reprinted from "The Blind Californian" the quarterly newsletter of the California Council Of The Blind, Summer, 2022.

Pictures of Maxwell at DSA Troop activities courtesy of Leah Lane

The campground has many pluses. First there are few foxtails or burs. It's frequently used by Cub Scouts and Brownies so the park service sweeps it free of forest debris.

It is surrounded by towering redwoods, keeping it shady and cool. We are several miles mostly straight up overlooking the rowdy Pacific ocean, so we have all the fog 'er' mist that comes with being on the central California coast. That means warm afternoons and chilly nights, and a tent covered with moisture upon awakening.

We have a large fire ring where we are allowed to roast our wieners and marshmallows. The barrier is over a yard high so the forest is protected from flying embers, a big concern in this fire-ravaged state. And we have friendships. About twenty of us, mostly women in their fifties and sixties comprise the local Dog Scout troop.

Dog Scouts is just what you think, people who loved scouts and since the kids grew up and moved out we do the same thing with preparedness and patches minus kids but with dogs. You can get a community service badge, a therapy badge, a backpacking and of course a camping badge.

All these pooches love adventure and are comfortable doing things with humans. We go on ranger-lead nature hikes, visit outdoor concerts and cafes and just hang out on restaurant patios with our canines. I am the only member [of the troop] with a service dog.

The campground is also a preserved Native American relic. It has numerous small pits where the [Native Americans] ground acorns. These were hollowed out and lined with sharp rocks centuries ago by native tribes. A naturalist painted vivid pictures for us of Indian women squatting before these holes, chatting, singing and grinding. This, the naturalist tells us is the first factory for stone-ground grain.

Maxwell, my golden guide knows immediately to avoid the pits. He loves hiking and is careful to insure I never sprain an ankle. I feel safe running around camp holding his harness. We also have to navigate around numerous concrete picnic tables as well as coolers, stoves, the fire ring and lots of portable chairs, tents and tables brought by my friends. But Max happily powers through all the obstacles, his bushy flag-tail sweeping back and forth, his nose alive to the scents of the woods.

Now when I was a kid, a campground had an outhouse. The smell actually assisted me in finding it. But here, we have a row of huge, green wheel-chair accessible plastic porta-potties. Totally sanitary they have almost no scent. And because we are Scouts we just naturally keep them clean.

The potties are about a quarter of a mile away from the campground and due to a leaking faucet which the forest service plans to fix, the route directly to the potty is a muddy quagmire. So my friends advise me to take a circuitous route, circumventing yet more tables, coolers and chairs.

Max doesn't like mud either, which is good, because he's happy to tramp farther to get to the human toilet. But teaching him to find it on his own is another thing.

"Good potty," I croon, sliding a treat in to his eager mouth. "Find the potty," I request later, hopefully as he snuffles through the forest until a helpful friend rescues us.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

New Ways to Bond with One's Guide (cont.)

Max continues to find more stoves and tables to guide around and the potty just isn't a destination for him.

At bedtime my friends suggest I wake them if I have to go. I assure them we won't have any trouble finding the potty in the middle of the night, and besides, I lie, I almost never get up in the night to go anyway. All the food has been locked in cars due to the occasional threat of bears and the regular visits of raccoons so there will be nothing yummy to distract Max, I tell my friends.



I carefully avoid drinking water before bed, spitting out the toothpaste when I brush. At 1 A.M. I awake parched, and take the tiniest little sip from my water bottle.

At 3 AM I wake with a bladder the size of Texas. I can barely move it feels so full. The more I try to stop thinking about it, the more I have to go.

Finally I pile on the warm layers, I harness Max and we slip out of the tent. It is pitch dark, and though I don't really see enough for light to help, I notice the moon is absent so I wonder how well Max can see.

"Find the potty," I whisper and rattle the food pouch, promising him a treat to come.

He charges off happily, nose in full gear. I hear my friends snoring and we encounter no obstacles so I know Max can tell where he's going. I smell the fire ring as we pass, hear the wind rattling a pot lid on one of our camp stoves. But is he going where I want to go? And speaking of going, do I ever have to!

We are climbing a slope. Oops, I know there is no slope to the potty. And suddenly we are on an asphalt road. It's deathly quiet. Following his training, Max takes me to the road shoulder, with bushes on the left and the road stretching ahead of us on the right. I think about retracing my steps, but can't remember where the road we drove on was. And I can't remember if there are two roads out of this campground or if it's on a dead end.

I halt Max and pick up some small rocks and throw them experimentally to my left. I hear them cascade down what seems to be a fairly steep slope. Then I hear a large splash as they land in a pond below the road. We continue because frankly I'm not sure what to do.

Another quarter mile I toss some pebbles again. This time the slope seems less steep and I realize there are no tents below us. I hear my pebbles finally come to rest in shallow water, maybe fifty feet below. Good, I think, it is indeed safe here.

I squat on the edge of the road and make it quick. I have done this many times backpacking but never when car camping. I hope I am really far away enough from people.

Max bounces up and down. He's gotten to relieve himself with other dogs, but now his pack leader is urinating in the woods where he likes to go. The joy of over marking my spot makes him snort and spin with uncontained fervor. As soon as I pull up my pants, Max indicates he needs to go too. Off with the harness and he's circling and wagging and urinating a gallon. Why I wonder, did he save that up instead of going at bedtime like he usually does? Did he hope for a chance like this, bonding like dogs do but with his very own human in the woods?

Max is practically dancing up the road as we retrace our steps, walking on the other side, hoping we won't miss the campground. About half a mile later, Max begins pulling me frantically across the road and through a lot of very squishy mud. And guess what he's found -- the potty!



Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

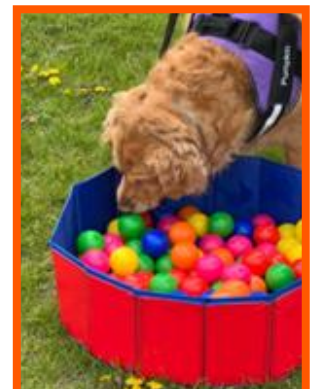
Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has been quite busy getting out and letterboxing, geocaching, hiking and doing community events.

We try to hike a trail that is new to all of us each time we hike, and that has led us to some pretty incredible parks that we otherwise might not have known about. We think finding new trails is fun and the AllTrails app helps us when looking for places to go.



We also recently had a scent work day where we played games, and practiced finding hides on vehicles and people. Based on each dog's experience level, we were able to increase or decrease the difficulty of the hides. We had so much fun that day, this time in one of our favorite parks, that we have decided to have another scent work day, which we have scheduled soon.



Troop 217 (cont.)

Ever have one of those times where you needed to be in 3 different places at once? Well, that happened to our troop recently. We had several troop members down in Indiana at a letterboxing event and doing a little geocaching along the way. At the same time, we had 2 events taking place in communities our troop serves. So divide and conquer is what we did.



Martha Thierry and Connie Hunt, along with Maia and Gracie did a great job and had fun at the Mutt March, while Julie Lawler-Hoyle and Diane Baughman with Katie and Jaxson manned our booth at the Bark for Life event in Toledo, OH. Both of these events are quite high profile in our area so it was awesome to be able to cover both on the same day.



Baby Bruno, a Standard Poodle has joined the Hoyle household and we are so happy to have him! He has brought us a lot of joy in the short time we've had him, and he really enjoys our troop activities. Currently,

Bruno has done quite a bit of letterboxing, geocaching and backpacking. He recently became a Pup Scout and he's working on all the skills he needs to be able to become a Dog Scout. I can't wait to see what he'll accomplish!



Troop 237—East Bay, CA

Ruth Robinson—Troop Leader

Mama Earth Got Cleaned

Troop members + doggos participated in the annual citywide Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday, April 15th. We did double-duty by pulling weeds around the local high school AND removing the dreaded California foxtails, which can kill a dog.

Our reward was a lovely and delicious community lunch given to all the volunteers by the City of El Cerrito.



Wait?? Your troop didn't do Earth Day this year? Here are some suggestions to be earth-friendly all year long:

- Giving up meat and/or dairy for a determined period of time,
- Starting a vegetable garden or a butterfly attracting garden,
- Planting a no mow native CA grass in your yard,
- Volunteering for those in need,
- Avoiding plastics,
- Reducing food waste at home by reducing the amount of food that spoils in the fridge or on the countertop,
- Electrifying your stove top

Kristie Iwamoto, Susan Francis, Katherine Boswell, Teresa Albo and Ruth Robinson are filling those weed bags.



Thatcher Francis and her mom, Susan, removing the dreaded foxtails.

Katherine, Lulu, Teresa and Ollie grin and pull the weeds. **Social Connection Time for Hoomans and Doggos**



Troop 237 (Cont.)

Every month our Troop gathers to connect with each other, our very sociable dogs and talk about 'dog stuff'. These recent months have been pretty cold in our area and we appreciate the extra outdoor heaters the restaurant provides. *Viva Los Moles!*



The size of our group changes from month to month.

One month, a new person, Jerry, joined our party for the first time. While he decided this wasn't his 'thing', he put in motion a wonderful connection. During the social time, we talked dogs, as usual. One member, Pat, who was still mourning the loss of her beloved Copper, inquired about Jerry's large friendly dog.

"Where did you get him?", Pat asked.

Jerry replied, "Rocket Dog Rescue. They are pretty far from here, and mostly rescue large older dogs."

We noticed Pat suddenly on her phone, tapping away.

Then, we heard a gasp, and a cry of "Oh my!" from her.

"I want that dog!" she told the table of startled folks.

Next day, Pat was on it, as they say. She contacted Rocket Dog, said she was ready for "that" dog they showed on the site. So, sight seen, but no face-to-face contact yet, Pat completed the adoption application.

She arranged to drive a very long way to meet her Nala. Must have been love at first sight for both of them, because soon Nala was riding back to her now forever home. The story doesn't stop here. True love is never an easy or smooth path, as we all know.

Pat noticed that Nala seemed to have a hip problem. We all held our collective breaths as we waited to hear from Pat about the vet report. In our minds, we were praying that Nala didn't have hip dysplasia.

No, hips were OK. BUT, it turned out that Nala had been shot and the pellet was imbedded deeply in her. That dear, gentle, and very large dog had endured something very nasty in her past.

So far, Nala is walking and hiking just fine with her new Pack. She is a gentle giant of a dog, and a wonderful companion to Pat.

You just never know what will happen at a Dog Scout meeting!

Troop 237 (Cont.)

Speaking of Pack Walks...

Each month our Troop gathers at a local regional park for a two-mile hike. Our dogs gain social skills, practice off leash walking and recall, and our human end of the leashes enjoy a lovely place with favorite furry friends.



Pat and her rescue, Nala,
Katherine and her lab rescue, Ollie,
and Nancy and her rescue, Tykie

Patty and her "girls",
Aussies, Gracie and Lily.
These three spend time
learning how to herd,
do performance level shows,
and still find time for pack walks.



Who are the participants of Troop 237?

This is one busy group, with a lot of service and volunteer time put in for various programs.

The Alliance of Therapy Dogs is pleased that one of our members is an Observer/Tester for the program here in Northern California. Susan Francis and her Corgi, Thatcher, also volunteer as a Therapy Dog Team in local elementary schools, libraries, community colleges, and senior living facilities.

Member Liz Johnson is an Observer/Tester with ATD, and she is a professional Therapy and Service Dog Trainer.

Susan, Kristie, Connie, Ruth, and Patty are ATD Therapy Team members. Former Therapy Dog teams include Pat (now with Nala), Kim (now with Lily), Nancy (with Tykie), Chriss (with Toby).

Chriss and Toby do Barn Hunt and Scent Work under the AKC umbrella.

Pat and her Aussies participate in a variety sports and competitions in AKC.

Rainbow Bridge

Dear Lou,

I wasn't sure where to begin to honor you, so I will start at the beginning. On May 31, 2006, at 2:00 in the morning, your mom delivered the most precious 10 ounce baby boy – we named you Lou. I knew you were special, but at that moment, I could never have imagined how you would change my world. You were truly a gift from God.

You spent your younger days with your family, both beagle and human, and enjoyed life being a dog, but as your second birthday approached, I learned about Dog Scouts from a pet therapy team at work who had been to the Missouri Mini-Camp. When she showed me pictures, I was so excited because I knew we would have so much fun learning new things. Your world was about to change, too!! You and I joined St. Louis DSA Troop 149 for our first walk shortly thereafter at Creve Coeur Park. You were pretty shy on that first walk, but once we were walking you really enjoyed the day even though it rained and stormed. We were soaked but we had the time of our life that day and fell in love with Dog Scouts. It was the beginning of many adventures for us.



Lou, you had a passion for learning, or was it the treats that you received when you were learning? Either way, you loved learning! The more we learned together, the stronger our bond grew. We took classes beginning with Family Dog, and the more you learned, the more we wanted to learn together. We moved from Family Dog to Rally and Tricks, and other fun classes. Fortunately, for us, we only knew clicker training, and Lou, you loved the clicker. I'm sure it is because the clicker meant a promise of treats.

My sweetheart, while we may not have accomplished anything "spectacular," but we were learning together and creating so many memories for almost 17 years. Belonging to Dog Scouts was very special to us. One of our first badges that we earned, besides the Dog Scout badge, was the Overnight Camping Badge. I thought I was too old to camp in a tent again, but you taught me that we could certainly enjoy camping in a tent, and earning our badge was the first of many camping trips in your lifetime!!

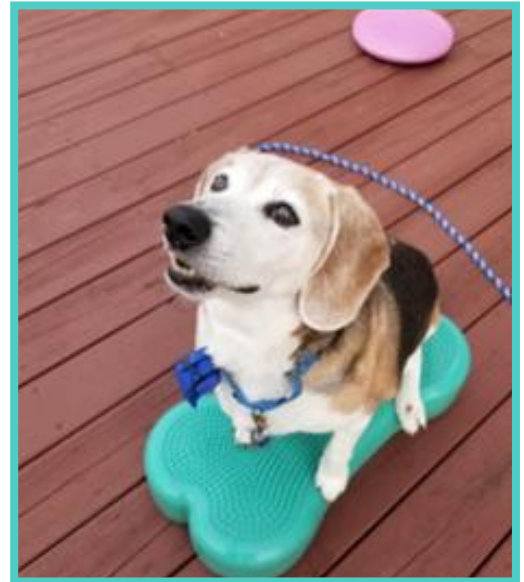
Lou, you were quite the artist!! It was so much fun teaching you to paint; you seemed to have a knack for raising that paw and putting it to the canvas. You earned your Art of Shaping (Painting) badge and created some special memories for me. I will treasure those paintings forever!



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

Sometimes, Lou, it took us awhile to master our requirements for badges, but I think the journey was much better than the final destination. While working on our AKC Tricks titles, we also worked on our Tricks badge. There were some tricks you loved, and some tricks you didn't. There were also a couple tricks I wouldn't teach you – like opening the refrigerator door or speaking, but you loved to learn tricks, have fun, and get treats. Then we put our story together for our AKC Tricks Performer Elite title and our Dog Scout Tricks badge – of course our story was our favorite thing to do – go on a camping trip!!

Lou, it was such a blessing that we were able to attend several Texas Mini-Camps. In 2021, you earned your DOGa badge, and from that day until just days before you passed, you did DOGa three times a week, and happily anticipated your exercise routine.



In 2022, you earned your Scent Discrimination badge, something we had tried many years ago and didn't complete. After you earned your AKC Excellent title and a Master Container title, you readily earned your Scent Discrimination badge and went back for more scent work fun each day, even in the rainy weather. Both years, you were the oldest senior dog at camp, and you were treated like royalty, and we were grateful for that honor. We also can't forget the virtual camps during Covid, Lou, when we spent so much time together learning new things.

My love, you were always willing to try new adventures with me, and for that I will always be grateful. The memories we created together learning canine freestyle, riding on a boat on Lake Michigan, walking on the beach in Florida, going to baseball games, watching a movie at the drive-in theater, camping, dining out, geocaching in 21 states, are just amazing memories with you! I am so grateful to you to have all these memories. Ironically, our last Dog Scout hike was at Creve Coeur Park, the same park where almost 15 years earlier our adventures began.

On March 14, 2023, I let you go, but you have continued to teach me what life is genuinely about. You are the most selfless, kind, gentle and caring dog and you are truly my heart dog. I am so proud of you and love you so much. Thank you for spending your life with me, learning with me and teaching me. I will remember you always and love you forever.

All my love,
Mom (Sandi Antalick)



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/UC8wW3mF8wW3mF8wW3mF8wW3m)

[#dogscoutsofamerica](https://twitter.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
(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: 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: troops@dogscouts.org

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Titles/Competition Registration Number: Kristie Iwamoto — titles@dogscouts.org

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — president@dogscouts.org

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org
(Also for newsletter distribution)