



**Dog Scouts of America**  
**Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet**

**Expert Sniffers - Interiors**

Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

All hides in this badge are blind to both the dog and handler. Hides must be placed for a minimum of at least 10 minutes before dog and handler attempt to find the hides.

- Dog has earned the Advanced Scent Discrimination Badge**
- Handler understands and can explain the concept of interior air flow, temperature, humidity, age, time of day and how it impacts the dog's ability to find the scent source**
- Dog has a *strong* indication behavior (nose or paw touch, stare, etc.)
- Handler knows how to train for multiple scents and has taught the dog at least two scents (different from those used in Expert Sniffers - Exteriors) for this badge
- Dog can indicate his/her behavior to 2 or more scents to be used for this badge
- Handler trusts the dog's ability to "find it" and can read the dog's alert to identify the location of the target object when it has been hidden from view by another person and the handler does not know its location.
- Handler can clearly describe at least 3 applications for interior scent work, including 1 application where their dog could be helpful to them at home**
- Dog can find 3 hides in a room (about 100 to 500 sq feet) with multiple hiding spots where the dog has not previously practiced scent work; handler must call "Alert" each time the dog has clearly given his known indication at each hide**
  - Multiple hides must be placed at different heights in relation to the dog's height
    - Below hock
    - Between hock to nose
    - Between nose level and dog standing on hind legs
    - Above nose level on hind legs
  - Dog must be able to find at least one hide that requires him to climb on something or go in something to reach the scent and give his indication
  - Also in the room should be a food and toy distraction; dog should NOT alert on either item
    - The food distraction placement shall not be known to the handler
    - The toy can be visible to both the dog and handler
- Dog must be able to find an article belonging to the handler, where the handler does not know the location within a room; dog must give an indication when the item is located or retrieve the item to the handler
- Dog must be able to determine the person an article belongs to out of a group of 3 people, where both handler and dog are blind to the owner of the article**