

# The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 26 Issue 3 ~ Fall 2023

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

**Rainbow Bridge**  
P29

The Gamage hounds hanging  
out on National Hammock Day



## Notes from National

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& Troop Talk**  
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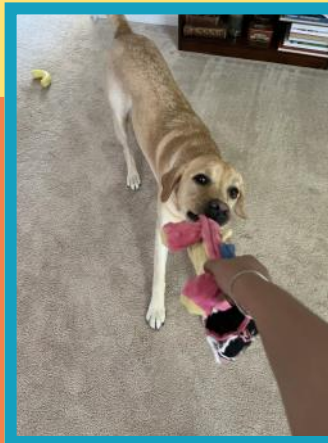
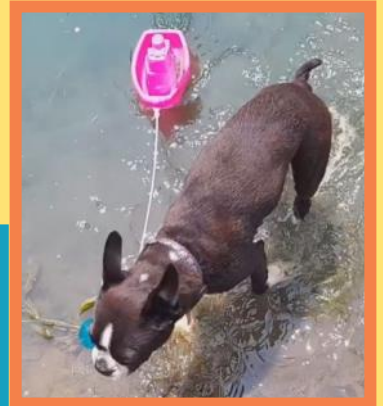
Deadline: for the next newsletter is

**December 1st**

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

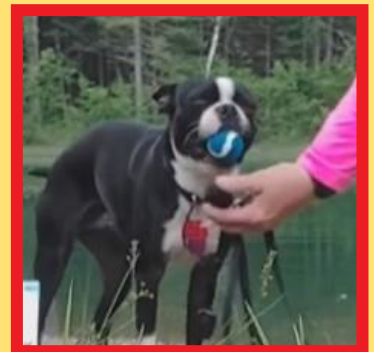
# FLAT SPARKY'S FUNNER SUMMER '23

Targets, treats  
& water feats





# FLAT SPARKY'S FUNNER SUMMER '23



**HELP! I'M LOST!**

**RYLIE**

BREED: AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD  
 GENDER: FEMALE  
 COLOR: STRAWBERRY BLONDE / WHITE  
 EYES: ONE BLUE, ONE BROWN  
 COLLAR: PINK & BLACK WITH HEARTS  
 \*MICROCHIPPED\*

**REWARD**

Can be lured with treats. Has anxiety so please don't chase. Please contact with any information! Rylie is FARMY and can be reached at 508-555-1234



**Good job everyone!**



Thank you for participating

# Our Dog Scouts Light our way!

## 2 Michigan Camps focused on our relationships

*By Martha Thierry, Board Member*

When going to camp this year, we thought about fun with old and new friends, how to earn badges, get ready for new ones, and how to prepare for whatever Mother Nature sends us. I'm happy to say that we were lucky on all accounts.

We always like to know that we are accomplishing our goal to reach out to new campers and bring people and dogs back to enjoy the unique experiences that only can be appreciated at camp. It's an amazing place in the beauty of the north woods, heck it just smells great up there! There's no pine scented air freshener that can compete! Other than a new boathouse now sits on the shore of Splash Pond to house kayaks, flotation vests and other water equipment, it's the same home away from home for many of us and a discovered treasure for new campers. I know our dogs benefit from the freedom to hike the trails, swim, boat, learn new things, and play games at camp. Very full days sweep by so quickly. And we make memories that often change our lives. I know it's special for my dogs—like a reset button for our relationship.

Our camp theme was based on our dogs' inner lanterns that guide us to new and wonderful things. New things this year included two new expert-level scent badges called Expert Sniffers, developed and taught by Fay Reid — one interior and one exterior. For those who were working on these badges it was challenging, surprising, and relationship building. It's always amazing to see dogs' natural skill of finding scent in various locations and then for them to include us in their success is mind-blowing.

The third badge inaugural offering was No Contact Agility. Under Sally Hoyle's guidance, dogs got to experience brand-new obstacles including an elevated tunnel, balance beam and totally unique courses. Dogs and handlers capably navigated these with some practice and gained a confidence that only comes with true partnership.

Other camp offerings were games, crafts, hiking the trails, water badges, foundation badges in scent and agility, Dog Scout title class, tree identification, RallyFrEe and amazing Movement Puzzles. We even had a little bit of down time, some fun with camp Bingo and of course the not-so-silent auction. Even routine things are special at camp and I know in the midst of the coming winter, I'll reflect on what we did, how we took care of each other, and most of all that we had fun with our dogs who always guide us to better things.

The only thing I can add is a great big THANK YOU to everyone who planned, attended, created, participated, and built everything that made this year's camps memorable and successful.



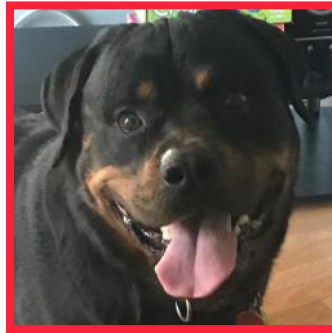
# Our Dog Scouts Light our way!



# New Dog Scouts! Congratulations!

By Sally Hoyle, President

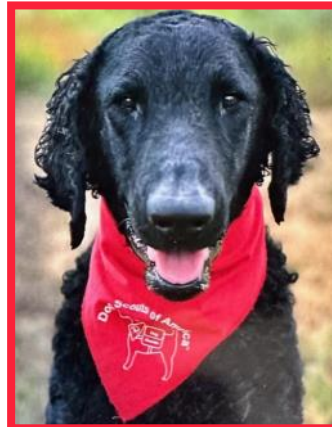
We have a lot of new Dog Scouts to celebrate this quarter! Our members have been working diligently with puppies and new adoptions to earn their Dog Scout titles. We also have a number of new members who have achieved this title with their dogs during the quarter. I also know there are many other members still working to with their dogs and I look forward to celebrating their successes very soon. Please join me in celebrating our 10 new Dog Scouts for Q3 2023!



Bruno Hoyle (far left)  
Whitmore Lake, MI  
Troop 217

Bubbles Bello (center left)  
Coolidge, AZ  
Troop 245

Magnum Bello (left)  
Coolidge, AZ  
Troop 245



Angel Cranston  
Jackson, MI  
Troop 217

CoCo Lisowe  
Malone, WI

Jordan Holmgren  
N Mankato, MN

Kolache Ludwig  
Peoria, AZ

Pumpkin Matteson (right)  
Beavercreek, OH

Remy Lomas (center right)  
Alger, MI  
Troop 101

Violet Schmitt (far right)  
Morton, IL



# Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

By Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



## Congratulations to Our New Title Holders!

Spring and summer were definitely busy for our Scouts!  
Here are the Trail Titles earned in the months of March through August:

### TRAIL DOGS

Jasmine Burgess (TD/TDX)  
Whitney of Silkenhome de Zeeuw (UT)  
Henry Doak *[pictured]*  
Booker Keel (UT500)  
Sandia Kircher (TD/TDX/UT)  
Jax Long  
Molly Long  
Ethel Soule  
Finwë Soule  
Amy Strathman (UT)  
Maia Thierry  
Fizz Walker (TD/TDX)  
Patch Walker (UT10K)  
Burley Weger (UT)  
Duchess Weger (UT)  
Frankie Weger (UT)



### PACK DOGS

Sandia Kircher  
Amy Strathman (UP)

### LETTERBOX DOGS

Mackenzie Hoyle (LB500)  
Jax Long (LBA)  
Molly Long (LBA)  
Kismet Olson (LBX)  
Scallywag Olson (LBX)  
Goldy Reid (LBA)

### GEOCACHE DOGS

Katie Hoyle  
Mackenzie Hoyle

### CYCLE DOGS

Amy Strathman (UC)

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



# New Nose Work & Agility Badges!

By Sally Hoyle, President

We have three new badges this year and we are very excited about them. All three were introduced at camp in Michigan in August and campers had fun working on these new challenges.

## Expert Sniffers - Interiors

This badge was designed to provide new opportunities for scent work beyond what is included in Scent Discrimination and Advanced Scent Discrimination. Requirements for this badge include completing a room search with 3 hides (2 different scents) along with the distractions of food and a toy, and identifying the person that a dropped article belongs to.



## Expert Sniffers - Exteriors

This is the companion badge to the one above, focusing on outdoor scent work activities. Requirements include completing a successful vehicle search, finding a hide that is buried in the ground, and demonstrating a useful application for scent work outdoors. For this last requirement the dog can locate various articles dropped by their handler (keys, wallet, cellphone, etc.), find discarded items such as bottles and cans for the Clean Up America 1 badge, or locate hidden substances.



Note: These two scent badges are truly at the expert level. Dogs must be very solid in their ability to find hidden scents before attempting these badges and the dog must have a rock-solid indication once they find the scent.

## No Contact Agility

The intent of this badge is to provide new agility challenges and improve the skills of the human/canine team while having fun. As the name implies, no contact obstacles (dog walk, teeter, A-frame) are used. However, unique obstacles are introduced, including a balance beam, an elevated tunnel, barrels and hurdles along with all types of traditional jumps, tunnels and a set of 6 weave poles. Three courses are required for the badge with each meeting different specifications. For example, one course has a distance challenge, and another requires a "slingshot" maneuver using barrels.



None of the new badges were designed to align with any other venue that currently does agility or scent trials; however, working on these badges does not impair the dog's ability to compete in any other environments.

Special thanks to Fay Reid for her work on developing the scent badges and to Goldy for demonstrating how to meet each requirement. Thanks to members of the Board of Directors for providing feedback on each of these badges, and thanks to Martha Thierry for once again providing amazing patch designs that accurately capture the spirit of each badge.

The training sheets and criteria are posted on the Dog Scouts webpage. Any questions regarding these new badges should be emailed to [dsavideoevals@gmail.com](mailto:dsavideoevals@gmail.com).

Someone is having a birthday  
and she wants YOU to help her  
**CELEBRATE!**

I'm Goldy and I need your help celebrating my 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. While I was born October 19, 2013 I didn't meet my mom until March 8, 2015 and officially became a Dog Scout on May 31, 2015.

I've been thinking a lot has happened over those years and I feel a need to celebrate with my fellow Dog Scouts. You can help by completing any of the following badges that have been introduced since I was lucky to become a Dog Scout. When you & your parent have completed and submitted

**any of the badges listed below by my birthday  
October 19, 2023,**

I will donate \$10 of my toy fund to DSA.



Now don't forget to have your parents get out those badges you started or were thinking of starting but like my mom haven't quite got around to them yet.

If nothing else just remember to have some summer fun together, try something new, and if it has anything to do with water it's a BONUS!



**Which Badge will you choose?**

2023 - Expert Sniffer - Interiors

2023 - Expert Sniffer - Exteriors

2023 - No Contact Agility

2022 - GeoScenting

2022 - Canine Cognition

2021 - Up North Dog

2021 - Urban Hiking

2020 - Disabled Dog

2019 - Canine Nutrition

2019 - DOGa

2018 - Parkour

2018 - Agility Partners

2017 - Advanced Scent

2017 - Copy Cat

2016 - SUP

2015- Carriage Dog

**PS: If you earn my 2 favorites,  
I'll DOUBLE the donation!**

Criteria, training information, and forms for all these badges can be found under the **Merit Badges** tab at [dogscouts.org](http://dogscouts.org).

# Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

## Troop 101—MI

Fay Reid (with help from Goldy)

June 3<sup>rd</sup> brought some of the Northern Michigan Trail Blazers to blaze on down to Indiana for the GLG 2023: Movie Magic Letterboxing Event at the Spring Mill State Park. While we were there, we met up with some other DSA members. (*We forgot to get a picture of all of us together.*) It also brought temps in the 90's, whew, it was a hot one, but loads of fun!! On Saturday, the older dogs went back to the hotel to kick back in the AC while Molly, being the youngest, represented the team. We kept her well-hydrated and covered her with wet absorbers (*available for purchased from the DSA camp store*) to help keep her cool. While letterboxing we came across a running stream and being a lab, we let Molly have some fun!! Kaylene was especially excited about all the Disney stamps!!



Jax relaxing in the shade covered with a wet absorber to help keep him cool



Fay, Laurie & Kaylene with their "Disney Squad", Goldy, Booker, Molly & Jax



Kaylene, Molly & Jax, Laurie & Booker hot on the trail of a stamp



Fay & Goldy, Laurie & Booker in search of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stamp of the day



Caper, Kismet, Scallywag, & Bruno with Lonnie & Sally on the death defying Letterboxing hike down to the river



Kismet in a mini tent meant for letterboxing



A letterboxer stamping into the boxes at Lonnie & Sally's campsite



Twin Cave boat tour of an underground cave

June 11<sup>th</sup> took members Goldy & Booker to participate in the Judy Spencer 5k walk in Bay City to raise funds and give hope to survivors of violence by raising awareness and engaging in community education. Funds raised cover the boarding costs for survivors who seek shelter with their pets.



## Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Goldy, Booker & Jax are continuing to work on Therapy visits in nursing homes and libraries, putting in their time to bring joy and comfort to children and seniors. Goldy and Jax even got to demonstrate their musical and artistic skills when the themes for library day were “Got Music?” and “Want to Be a Famous Artist?”. Goldy & Jax combined Therapy Dog with All Dogs Band and the Art of Shaping badges to entertain and amaze the kids! Their paintings were hung in a local coffee shop with the kids’ artwork. The kids named Jax’s painting – “The Slide” and Goldy’s was named “The Ninja”



June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> we held a garage sale and included a troop meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During our down time we worked on some Rally FrEe moves. Also in June, Troop members participated in the Flat Sparky’s Funner Summer virtual event.

July 8<sup>th</sup> we had our meeting in St. Helen. We helped get out all the agility equipment to get ready for the MI camp. Molly tested out the A-frame and dog walk to make sure they were safe for the August campers. Molly got to set up one course for the Agility Partners badge that involves two tunnels and weave poles. Kyra also decided that she might like agility and gave the tunnels a try!



Kyra giving the tunnels a try



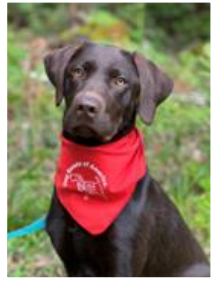
Molly executing weave poles



Goldy helping newest pup, Remy to enjoy swimming— we now have a new puppy paddler

After the agility equipment was set up, the humans had some lunch while discussing things like finances and events coming up. Then Molly, Jax, Booker, Scallywag and Goldy worked on finding scent on a person for the Advanced Scent badge so they could get working on the 2 new exciting scent badges! New member Kyra worked on scent discrimination and is doing great so she should be caught up on scent work soon!

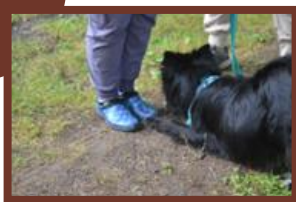
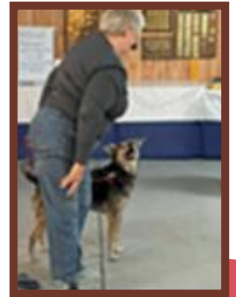
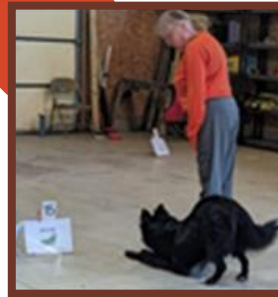
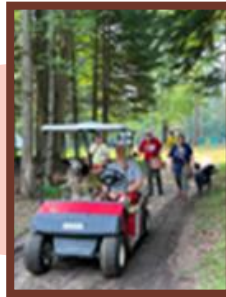
## Troop 101—MI (cont.)



August brought our newest Dog Scout, Remy Lomas. She and her Mom, Vickie, completed her requirements for the Dog Scout title at MI Camp. Congratulations Remy and Vickie!

It seems like only yesterday that she was a tiny puppy that fit into an Easter basket. She has earned her Puppy Paddler and Art of Shaping badges. She also learned that she likes scent work.

August was filled with the two DSA Michigan camps. Several members were able to attend and, when not hiking, swimming or trying to complete their bingo cards, worked on Rally FrEe, Scent Discrimination, Advanced Scent, Expert Sniffers—Interior and Exterior, and several agility badges including the new No Contact Agility.



## Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Members also tried their hands and paws with movement puzzles.



Booker running one of the No Contact Agility badge courses.



Lonnie won the most unusual "leave it" challenge for the Bingo at camp with her turtle made with sting cheese.

Congratulations to Troop Member's Achievements this quarter:

- 👍 Jax got the Carting badge!!
- 👍 Molly & Jax both got their Letterbox Dog Advanced titles and their Trail Dog titles.
- 👍 Kismet earned the Letterboxing Excellent title.
- 👍 Scallywag got his Scent Discrimination—Advanced badge and Letterboxing Excellent title.
- 👍 Booker earned his No Contact Agility, Rally FrEe Novice, Scent Discrimination—Advanced, and Expert Sniffer—Interior badges.
- 👍 Goldy earned her No Contact Agility, Expert Sniffer—Interior badges plus her Rally FrEe Masters title.

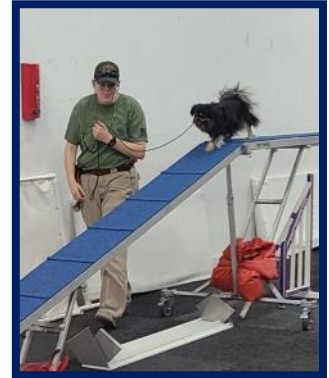
September will bring Paws Palooza where Troop 101 will have a booth (we first met our newest members Valarie & Kyra at this event last year) and the fun Craft Weekend (where it seems like no one gets any crafts done, but the dogs have all kinds of fun!)

# Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

This summer has been a struggle in The Lone Star State due to day after day of excessive heat! Thankfully, we've been able to continue our troop meetings in the great indoors and continue to have fun and learn together.

We offer Art of Shaping at mini-camp every year, but we wanted all the troop dogs to have the opportunity to learn and earn the badge. So in June, we presented the Art of Shaping. We had all levels of learners and some dogs perfecting their waves and canvas swipes, while others made it all the way to painting. We're not sure who was more proud of their accomplishments – the dogs or their people, but it was likely a tie.



In July we had a special troop presentation from long-time troop member, Karen Deeds. Karen is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through the International Association

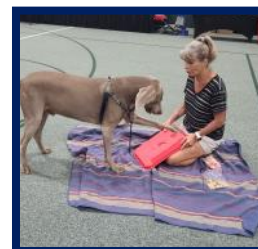
of Animal Behavior Consultants and she teaches classes, webinars, and workshops through Fenzi Dog Sport Academy (FDSA). We are always excited when Karen can share her knowledge with the troop! For this meeting, Karen talked about and demonstrated different types of play.

We learned that being able to tap into our dogs inner 'play' can be helpful in creating and maintaining a great relationship, changing the dogs emotions, as well as for reinforcing behaviors and skills we teach. The session included a Q&A so we could learn specific ways of play to benefit our individual dogs.



Our August meeting was another treat! We were able to use an area agility facility to introduce the dogs to the fun sport of agility. We concentrated on learning the equipment for the Obstacles badges. We thank two of our troop agility instructors, Nancy Strack and Victoria Severns, for teaching the dogs the fun they can have with jumps and tunnels and dog walks! Oh my! Some of the pups even surprised themselves with how brave they were as they learned. They all had a great time and a great night of sleep afterwards!

We're looking forward to the heat of summer making way for the crispness of fall, and mini-camp coming up around the corner!



# Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

It was a sad and joyous meeting In May. Troop 149 held it's first Annual Celebration of Life, inspired by Lou Antalick who recently left us. On what would have been his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday (May 31<sup>st</sup>), many of our troop members gathered to commemorate and celebrate those pets who had gone before. Memories were shared, poems read and music played.



## Don't Cry Sweet Mama

Don't cry sweet Mama, please don't weep.  
Please try dear Mama, to get some sleep.  
I know you're sad, and its because of me.  
But don't cry Mama, for now I am pain free.  
I know you miss me, and I miss you too,  
No one could have loved me more than you.  
I know of some dogs that run away to die,  
But not me Mama, I looked you straight in the eye.  
I didn't want to leave you, but my body lost the fight.  
And now my dearest Mama, you mourn me day and night.  
You wished you could have given me a bit more time to live.  
But Mama believe me, I had little left to give.  
I am glad you took me on that day, there was no other choice.  
I would have told you to "do it" - if I had a human voice.  
Don't feel guilty Mama, I know it broke your heart.  
I was always going to leave you first; we knew it from the start.  
But what a life you gave me, it really was the best.  
Not many have a life like mine, for that I am truly blessed.  
I hope one day I will see you again,  
With a smile upon your face.  
But for now I will snuggle up inside your heart,  
My very favorite place.




"Lou's Light of Love"  
Dog Scout Troop 149  
Celebration of Our Dogs' Lives

Date: May 31, 2023  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Place: Kirkwood Park, Campbell Pavilion

Welcome  
Remembering the Lives of Our Special Dogs

Poems and Quotes to Share  
Special Reading  
Song - I Will Always Be With You  
Reading of the Dogs' Names  
Our "Light of Love" Story  
Thank You

Potluck Dinner  
Games/Treats for our Patient Dogs

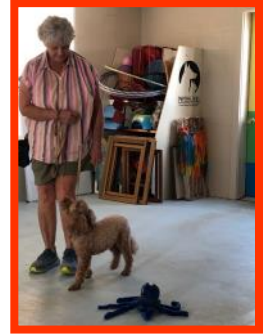
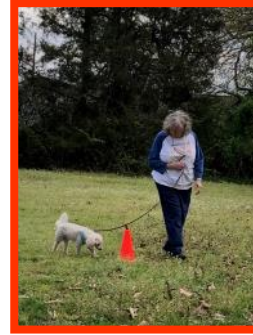




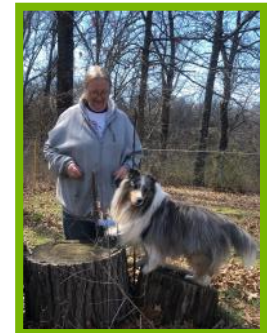
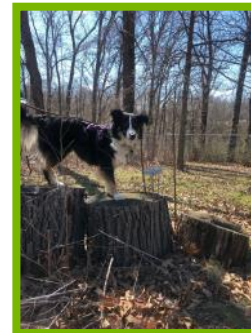
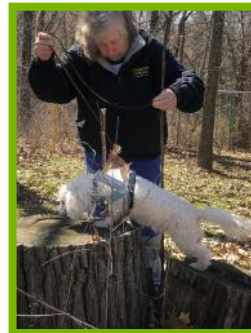
# Troop 150—AR

Sharon Branyan

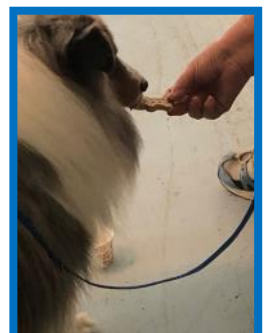
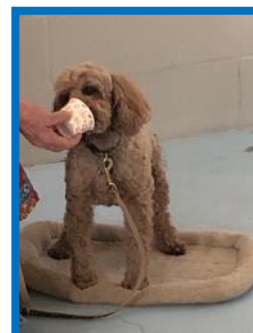
This year our troop decided to generalize our “leave it” skill by practicing with different objects and locations. Our dogs have done “leave it” with real rabbit fur found in the grass adjoining our meeting place, treats placed at the front step entrance as we arrived, treats balanced on top of an orange cone, and in August our Cadet Scout practiced with a toy, food, and a real fur mink “running” on a pull line.



At our spring meetings, we worked on Canine Cognition skills including trusting the handler to point to the object hiding a treat, identifying blue or yellow colors, and find-the-treat puzzle games. Several members were signed up for the Flat Sparky event and we enjoyed having Flat Sparky join us in March. In April, our troop leader, Sharon Gruetzmacher, officially retired from her professional dog training/boarding career and invited our troop to join in her retirement celebration with refreshments and treat bags for humans and dogs and a doggie craft bookmark/ornament.



The summer heat drove us indoors for meetings, where we worked on Canine Cognition skills involving shape flash cards (circle, square, triangle.) In July each member was invited to come with a trick we wanted our own dog to learn and teach it to the whole troop. Learning to “lick” on command was a favorite with the dogs since training began with a tiny dab of peanut butter on an empty water bottle. In August besides a special focus on the Dog Scout skills “Leave-it” and “Stay” for our cadet scouts, the dogs enjoyed a cool Frosty Paws and Cookie treat while we made hopeful plans for cooler weather, fall hikes, and letterboxing.



# Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

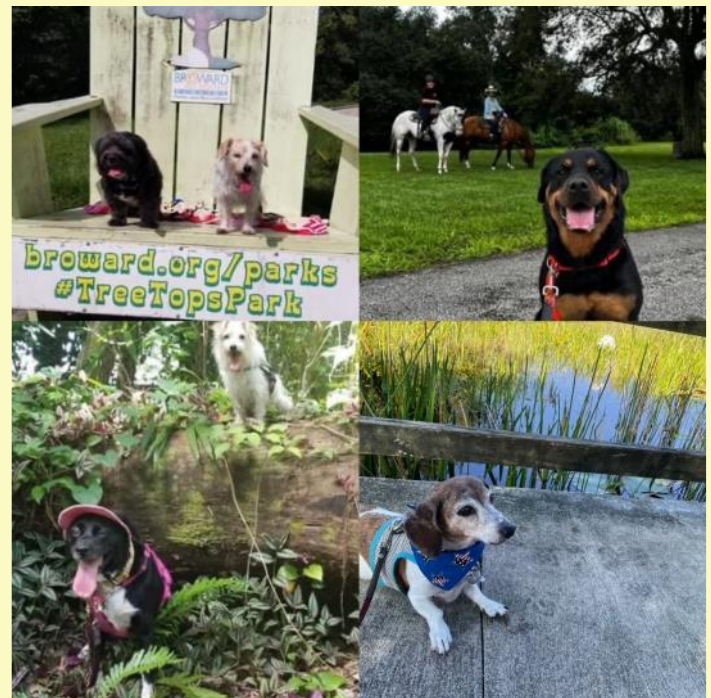
On June 17, our Dog Scouts Troop took our second trip on Carrie B Cruises for some boating fun on the New River and Intracoastal Waterway. They promote their dog friendly policy on Bring Fido. Dog scout teams Leanne Hugg with Emma and Cora, Shari Hain with Penny, Teresa Irvine with Ripley, and Dawn Hanna with River were welcomed by the crew with the usual fanfare!

The dogs were unimpressed by the mansions of the rich and famous, but we all had so much fun. It was a great opportunity to play tourist in our own town with our awesome dogs. We thanked everyone for their amazing hospitality and kindness.



## Troop 157—FL (cont.)

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, several of our Dog Scout Troop met at Tree Top Park for our annual “Armageddon Walk” to wear out our dogs before the fireworks and other crazy noises started.



It was such a hot day and the mosquitos were relentless, so we had to keep moving as much as we could, taking advantage of the shady trails. We took lots of breaks to give our dogs rest, rest and treats for good stays and check-ins. Everyone did a great job giving their dogs plenty of enrichments and tired them out.

On August 12, 3 DSA members and 2 dogs (Bubbles and Penny) took on a kayaking adventure at the Miami Intercostals.

The group took off in the morning from Oleta River State Park. The handlers paddled for a couple hours, as the dogs practiced their swimming skills, safe loading of the kayak and remaining calm in the water.

A break was taken at a local island where the dogs demonstrated their public skills while ignoring other people and dogs.

Additionally, the dogs executed their leave it skills when a surprise raccoon walked passed them in the island.

Fun was had by all.



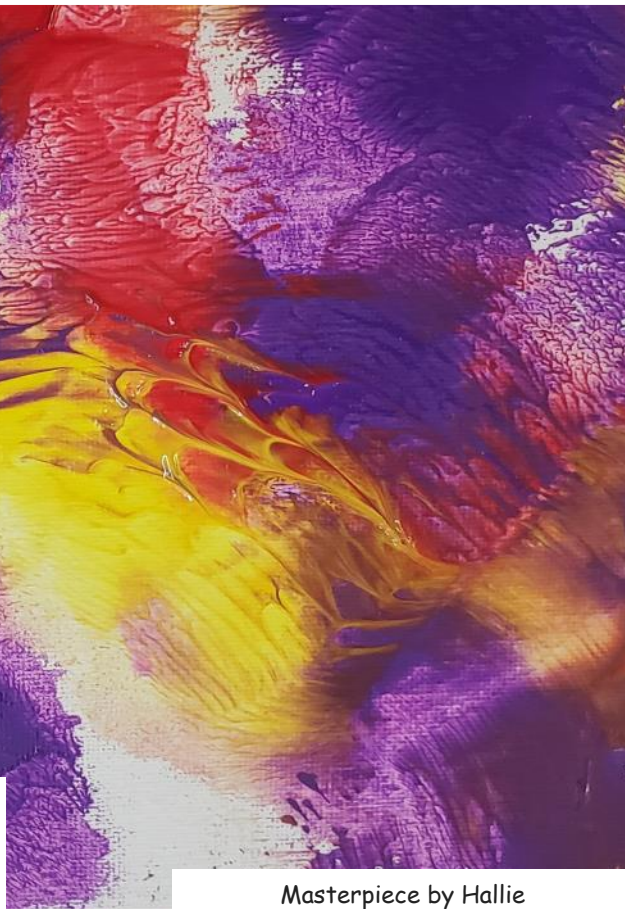
# Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter



Zena and Hallie strike a pretty pose

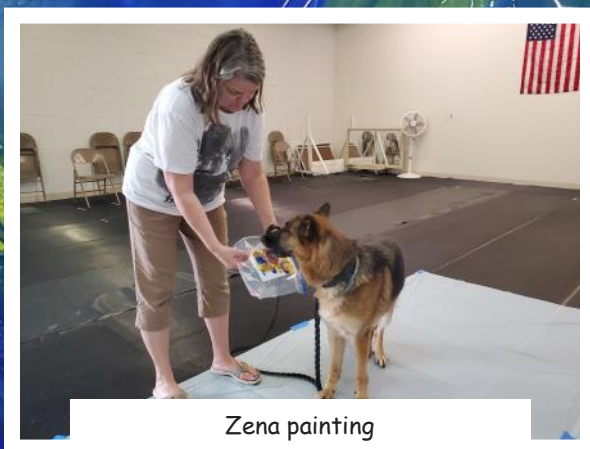
Troop #177 met on July 16 and practiced painting in an unusual way. We placed various blobs of paint on a painting board and slipped the board inside a large freezer storage bag without disturbing the paint. Then we placed small bits of peanut butter in strategic places on the outside of the bags. Zena and Hallie licked the peanut butter, distributing the paint on the inside! The dogs loved it!



Masterpiece by Hallie



Masterpiece by Zena



Zena painting

# Paws Pack 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

FINAL EDITION  
Saturday, August 5, 2023

*"It's the bond that makes it worth your while when you come home and the dog makes you smile rather than rolling your eyes." — Shirley Conley, Dog Scouts of America's Central Florida troop*



Tachi, a border collie, participates in a scent work activity with Shirley Conley during a meeting of the Central Florida Dog Scouts. Below: Merit badges are displayed during a troop meeting. PATRICK CONNOLLY/ORLANDO SENTINEL PHOTOS

## Dog Scouts of America bonds humans with pets

By Patrick Connolly  
Orlando Sentinel

A troop of good boys and girls met in a field as the sun set over Lake County, merit badges proudly displayed. But rather than two-legged scouts standing at attention, this group's members have four legs, tails and a furry coat.

This was a Central Florida troop meeting for the Dog Scouts of America, an organization that aims to help dogs and humans to help improve bond, in turn improving lives — both of the human and canine variety.

"I'll mention Dog Scouts and people ask, 'What's that?' I'll say, 'You know, there's Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Dog Scouts,'" said Jeanette Heidemam, one of the troop's members. "They have accomplishments and they get their little badges, even a vest if they get far enough."

Dogs and their handlers can earn more than 100 merit badges in nine categories: agility, community service, competitive sports,



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For more information, go to [dogscouts.org](http://dogscouts.org). To find local troops, look under the homepage's "Troop" tab.

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### Bond

For them?

nose work, obedience, responsible pet parenting, pulling, tricks, conkers and more.

At one meeting in late June, dogs tested their agility skills with a course, tied their noses at scent work and one border collie even practiced his painting skills. At another meeting, the troop visited "Bottle, Set Go!" in Cleeland for a barn hunt, an activity that tests a dog's scenting ability with rats hidden in hay bales.

Shirley Conley, the troop's leader, said that these experiences help dogs and owners grow without worrying about competition.

"You're challenging yourself and looking toward your own goals. It's not subjective like in obedience competitions, where it's a matter of what the judge sees," she said. "You're not scored against other people. It's just you and your dog against the standard. Once you meet that, it's 'Good job, here's your badge!'"

The motto of Dog Scouts of America is to "learn new things, that we may become more helpful." The organization promotes positive reinforcement like giving praise upon the completion of a task.

"The more people interact with their dogs and they become family members, the less likely they are to end up in shelters," Conley said. "It's all about building the human-canine relationship. It's the bond that makes it worth your while when you come home and the dog makes you smile rather than rolling your eyes."

Beyond that, the troop aims to get involved with the community while working with their dogs.

"Troops have been involved in Salvation Army bell ringing. People will reach their dogs to ring the bells or do tricks," Conley said. "Well-behaved dogs are welcome in more places in the community."

Conley's troop meets at least once a month, and newcomers may participate twice for free before they are required to join the national organization, which collects \$30 annual dues. There are no dues on the local level.

"While some participating canines and their owners might be motivated to earn as many badges as possible, others enjoy coming to meetings simply to spend time with fellow dog enthusiasts."

"People can do as much or as little as they want."

Conley said. "There's a social aspect. The dogs are having fun and learning something along the way."



Troop members, from left, Dave and Jeanette Heidemam with their Australian Shepherd, Scout, Troop Leader Shirley Conley with her border collie Tachi and smooth collie Kim, and Amy Bree with her dog, Sandy, and Marvin, all together after a barn hunt activity in Cleeland. PATRICK CONNOLLY/ORLANDO SENTINEL PHOTOS



Above: Shirley Conley works with Tachi on patting on June 29. Right: Jeanette Heidemam works with her Australian Shepherd Scout at "Bottle, Set Go!"

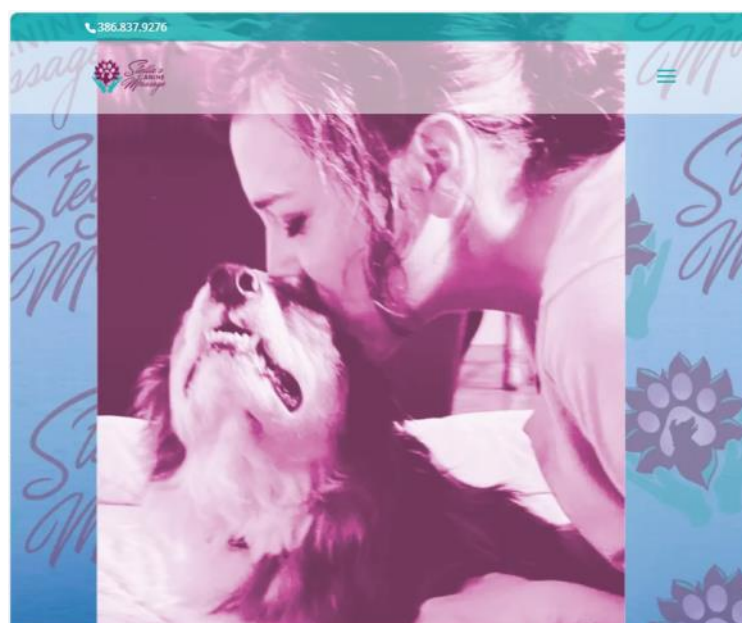


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Troop 183 were excited to have a local journalist contact us regarding a possible article on Dog Scouts. In June, we demonstrated scent work, agility, targeting and painting, and because the journalist had heard about Barn Hunt, we took the opportunity to schedule a barn hunt session with a local trainer in July so he could take some more photos. It was an added bonus to see we made the front page when the article came out.

We continued to get together for agility fun and some directional control practice in July and August—some days we spent more time hogging the shade and just enjoying each other's company than running around in the heat and humidity—even though we adjusted our start times for 8-8:30 a.m. We're definitely looking forward to cooler weather in another couple of months.

In July we also scheduled a K9 massage session - Natalie with Stella's Canine Massage came over and worked on 5 dogs! The dogs were all very appreciative of Natalie's magic hands. Troop member, Amy, captured a sweet moment between Natalie and Tachi, which made it's way onto Natalie's website.



# Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Michelle Lake, Co-Leader



We kicked off our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with the annual Troop 188 picnic on (or about) the 188<sup>th</sup> day of the year. We had a taco bar for the humans and lots of treats for the dogs including bone broth gummy worms, home made treats and yummy watermelon. After dinner, some of the dogs swam in the river to cool off. We also introduced Badge Roulette. Members get free spins at select events and can choose to work on one of two badges on the wheel or if they already have the badge can choose a prize.



## Braggs & Wags

Our dock-diving dogs continue to excel in their divisions!



Breeze earned an Advanced title in Junior Division Hydro Dash



Doug earned three more Q's towards Novice Advanced



Winslow got his last jump completed to proceed to North America Dock Diving Regionals, 3rd year in a row!

Chowdah and Firefly continue to rock the docks. Firefly earned her Dock Junior title and Dock Senior Excellent x3 title which is 105 jumps between 9' and 12'11". She is the only Smooth Fox Terrier to earn this title. Chowdah earned his first dock diving title - Dock Novice. He is the first German Spitz to jump with NADD and the first to earn the Novice title. He also set a new personal best of 5 feet! Go team!



## Troop 188—CT (cont.)

### Brags & Wags (Continued)



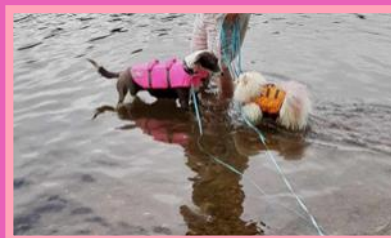
Congratulations to Sassy, Firefly, Frye and Thunder on passing the Canine Good Citizen test!

## Activities

A patriotic photo contest was held. We had lots of great entries!



The Troop 188<sup>th</sup> Day celebration continued the following morning with a swim. Many of our dogs are working towards the Puppy Paddler badge.



## Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year includes 15 months of hikes and strolls to lots of places in CT and RI. Here are some highlights of our outings. We practice loose leash walking, stays with distractions, proper greetings of both humans and other dogs and Clean-Up America while out and about.



We were happy to present a Pet Emergency Breathing Kit to Elvy the Brown University (RI) Community K9. Elvy was sworn in September 2022 and came from the Puppies Behind Bars program.



A Pet First Aid talk was held at a local volunteer fire company and another breathing kit was donated.





# Troop 198—CA

Janet Gee

Here's a sampling of our full calendar of summer fun, learning activities and accomplishments, although we were sad to bid adieu to a two long-time Scouts, Maxwell Armstrong and Sadie Randall, whom we will dearly miss.

(See *Rainbow Bridge* for tributes to Maxwell and Sadie.)

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade in Morgan Hill** is an annual event for us to celebrate the holiday and showcase our troop.



Ready to rock and roll



Bailey led with the Gumbin's float, alongside Crystal, Luna, mom Carlotta, dad Scott, and other troop members alongside and following



Pausing for a rest along our route, ready to start up again



Trevor again pulled our float with the troop banner, while proud mom Leah waved the flag



Rylie and mom Lennie march and sniff along

## Annual Camping trip at Mt. Madonna site, Huckleberry

We had a wonderful turnout of former, current and new members for our annual camping weekend.



Former Troop Leader Donna with her Wishbone and holding Leah's Trevor, Xena and mom Betsy, Cora with mom Kate, Scout and Sadie with mom Sharon, Luna with hooman sis Christina, Juni with pawrents Mark and Kim, Bella with pawrents Don and Celine, Sprocket with mom Patty, Teddy and Buddy with mom Jan, honorary cat scout Simba and mom Sue, and Rylee with mom Lennie



### Group hikes



Lennie demonstrating poop patrol while Rylee engaged with Wishbone to disavow all knowledge of how it got there, and Scout and Sadie say "You're next!" to Sharon



"Finally, we get a rest!" say Memphis with mom Debee, Trevor, Cora and Donna

## Troop 198—CA (cont.)

### Training

We held a number of training outings where we practiced the skills to become a Dog Scout.



Sprocket's low body fits easily under the chair for mom Patty



First-timer Juni practices stay with 4 cookies - what self-control and discipline!



Daphne scents while mom Jadelynn observes



Trevor practicing parkour with mom Leah



Izzy and mom Rita loose-leash walking alongside for their video documentation



Hoomans and doggos must always practice our sit/stay



Trevor Lane earned his Parkour, Art of Shaping and Massage Badges



Bailey Gumbin earned his Carting Merit Badge,

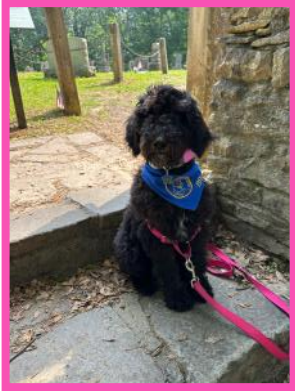


while daughter Luna became a Canine Good Citizen

### Accomplishments

# Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader



Troop 217 has been busy doing the things we love most starting with the Letterboxing event that several of us attended in early June. This event was the Great Lakes gathering, which is held each year in one of the Great Lakes states. This year, hosting honors went to Indiana and the event was held at the very large, and magnificent Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell. The theme was Movie Magic – 100 Years of Disney and Warner Brothers. The park itself was lovely. However the challenging terrain made it difficult in places. There were so many letterboxes that 3 days was not enough to get them all!

We have also been doing a lot of scent work as so many of our dogs love it. With each time we meet to train, we've made the challenges a little more difficult to prepare for our new Expert Sniffer badges. We have also varied the hides quite a bit. We've done a lot of outdoor hides at different levels and difficulties, vehicle searches and buried hides. Though we have dogs working on all levels of the scent work badges – Scent discrimination, Advanced Scent Discrimination, Expert Sniffers – Exteriors, and Expert Sniffers – Interiors – we have been able to meet everyone's needs with different games and activities. In all, we've had three scent work training days this summer. Next up for us, we're moving back inside to do some room searches and hopefully do some check offs for the first two badges.



And then it was time for camp! With two weeks of camps in back-to-back sessions, this year took a lot of preparation, especially with three new badges, but camp was wonderful! The weather was (mostly) great for both sessions, the people were fantastic, and the activities kept our dogs busy and challenged. Our troop had a lot of success with badges earned, but also with a lot of progress toward some of the most challenging badges that we did not finish with at camp. Our troop members are quite motivated to continue working on these badges throughout the remainder of the year.



Speaking of badge work, our dogs have been busy outside of camp as well. A total of 35 badges were earned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, including badges earned outside of camp. Congratulations to all of our dogs who earned badges this quarter – Angel, Bruno, Gracie, Jaxson, Mackenzie, Maia and Matty!

We have a lot planned for the rest of 2023. We have started working on the Manners badge as a troop and look forward to some of our favorite fall and holiday activities.

# Rainbow Bridge

## Maxwell Armstrong

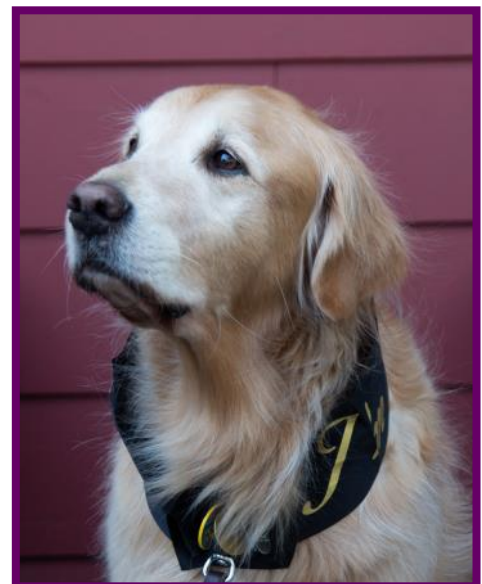
Troop 198 was heartbroken to say goodbye to Maxwell Armstrong when he crossed the Rainbow Bridge on June 13th.

Maxwell had been a member of Dog Scouts for over 10 years. He was mom Debee's Guide Dog, a certified Therapy Pet with both Furry Friends and Love On A Leash, and a notorious burrito thief at DeAnza College where he guided Debee while she was at work until he retired in 2019.



DeAnza College was not the only place Maxwell burgled food -- at two different Dog Scout troop meetings and one camping trip he skillfully removed food items from his human troop members' dinner plates. One of our favorite stories is of a Halloween party where Maxwell anchored the center square of the Tic Tac Dog board, handled by dad, Bob. Maxwell had a bulletproof down/stay, with his team on the verge of winning the game, when Debee picked up a cupcake at the food table on the other side of the room, and started to remove the cupcake paper. Maxwell was at her side in seconds in hopes of her sharing, and in his eagerness to not miss a crumb, completely cleared the board, scattering the other dogs in all directions -- we all laughed until we cried.

Maxwell welcomed new members into our troop, and was usually one of the two friendly dogs used to help them pass the Dog Scout test. His sweet, gentle heart brought so much happiness to those who knew him, we miss him very much.



## Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

### Sadie Randall

With heavy hearts Troop 198 said farewell to Sadie Randall when she left us to cross the Rainbow Bridge on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. In addition to being a Dog Scout, Sadie was also a certified therapy pet with Love on a Leash. During one therapy visit a woman said Sadie looked like her legs were decorated, we always called her as Sadie, "Sadie, the pretty lady with the decorated legs" after that.

Sadie was a working ranch dog and helped her mom Lennie feed the horses, move the sheep, round up the chickens at night, keep the raccoons out of the chicken coop and run off the coyotes and wild pigs when they got to close.

Sadie was also rattlesnake certified and was the perfect traveling companion and model for Lennie as she indulged her passion for photography taking pictures of Sadie on their hikes and travels in the great outdoors.



Sadie's Aunt Cheri wrote a beautiful message on Lennie's Facebook page:

Sadie LOVED life!!! She had the BEST life! She made everyone who came around her, smile, and she had the biggest smile of all. The ground squirrels would quake in their little boots when Sadie was out, they knew it was time to get the h\*\*\* outta there! Sadie might have been the happiest dog ever, she really lived, every moment. You can be proud and I know you will see her again.



*Sadie STSC July 2020*

We miss you so very much and yes Sadie, we will see you on the other side....

