

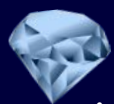
The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Volume 26 Issue 4 ~ Winter 2023

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

Congratulations to Troop 101's
Troop Leader, **Fay Reid** with Goldy,
who we recognized as a



Diamond Level
Versatile Troop Leader
this quarter.



Thank you
to all our Troop Leaders
who dedicate many hours,
and their knowledge and skills
to further the mission and goals
of Dog Scouts of America.

Notes from National

- New Dog Scouts P2
- Fall Round-Up P3

**Scout Scoop
& Troop Talk**
P7

Deadline: for the next newsletter is

March 1st

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

New Dog Scouts! *congratulations!*

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

Please join me in celebrating the success of the 10 dogs who became Dog Scouts in Q4! These dogs and their handlers worked diligently to successfully master the requirements for the title and are understandably proud of their accomplishments.

These dogs join 18 others in the Class of 2023 for a total of 28 new Dog Scouts this year! Others previously pictured are Angel Cranston (Troop 217), August Berryman (Troop 230), Badger Strathman, Bruno Hoyle (Troop 217), Bubbles Bello (Troop 245), CoCo Lisowe, Gracie Hunt (Troop 217), Jordan Holmgren, Kolache Ludwig, Magnum Bello (Troop 245), Murphy Dutkofski (Troop 119), Nemo Hilburn, Pumpkin Matteson, Reese Kruger (Troop 243), Remy Lomas (Troop 101), Rylee Randall (Troop 198), Sandia Kircher, and Violet Schmitt. Congratulations to these dogs and their handlers!



Buffy Antalick, MO



Coco Donovan, CO



Daisy Mozingo, TX



Buffy Antalick, WA



Jameson Hon, TX



Muffin Ulku, CA



Paisley Ratliff, TX



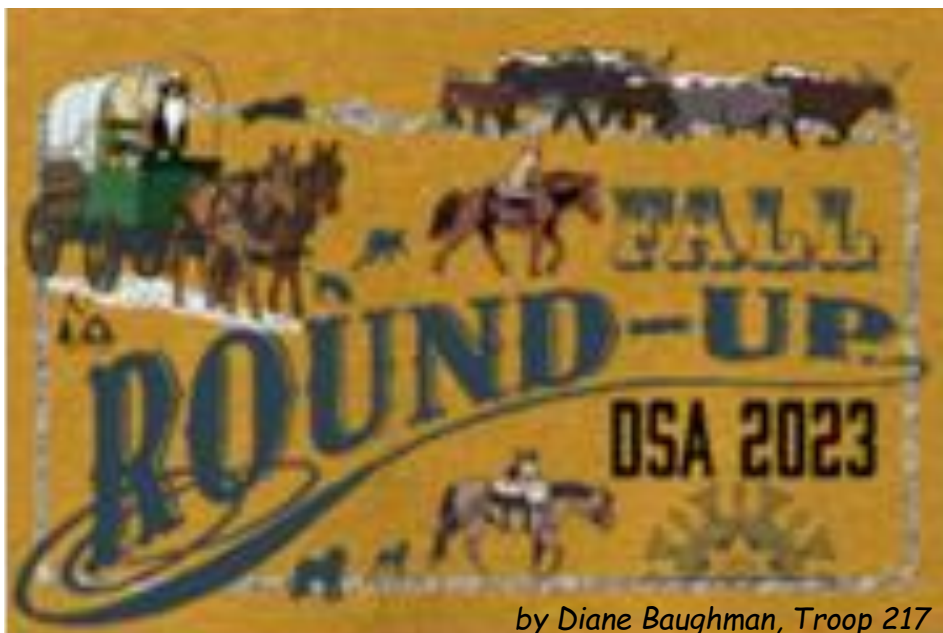
Phoenix Kaiser, TX



Ruby Rose Francis, TX



Zoey Bahr-Pyatt, MO



The Fall Round-Up was held Oct 20-23 at the Michigan DSA Camp.

It was hosted by Troop 217 members Diane Baughman and Diane Cranston and fourteen DSA members attended. The members were from Troops 101 and 217, and from St. Paul, MN, and Grand Rapids, MI.

by Diane Baughman, Troop 217

The Round-Up weekend began at the goody bag table. Participants picked up their hat, horse, goody bag for their dog and a mug filled with goodies for themselves, including a commemorative mint tin.



Participants then prepared for the Round-Up activities the next day. This included designing a "Ranch Brand" to be carved into a stamp, creating a Ranch Name, and decorating a bandana.



The next day was packed with activities for the "cowboys and cowgirls". It began with the Silver Mining Game where the dog touched silver nuggets then the owner tossed the nuggets to earn points.

DSA Fall Round-Up (cont.)

The next activity was the Indoor Cow Round-Up. The participant wore his/her hat, rode a pogo horse and used a yardstick to round up as many balloon cows as possible in one minute.



A western photo booth was available throughout the weekend. We took lots of photos of our “ranch hands”.



We had an Outdoor Cattle Round-Up as well. Participants and their dogs searched outside for “cattle” that belonged to his/her ranch. Once the cattle were found, the participant “branded” the cattle with his/her “brand stamp”.



Next came the Toss the Vittles game. Participants first tossed cheese pieces to their dogs and then cheese puffs to each other. Points were earned for the dogs catching the pieces or eating them off the ground.

Participants also earned points by catching the cheese puffs in their mouths.



DSA Fall Round-Up (cont.)

A train robbery also occurred during the Round Up! It was up to our loyal dog ranch hands to help find the robber, "Bad Bart".

First the dogs identified Bad Bart's hat by detecting his scent and then picked the robber out of a line up. Working on those scent badges really came in handy!



And what Round-Up day would be complete without a square dance?



After a busy day of rounding up cows and cattle, the final day of the Round Up was full of fun and games beginning with the Pin the Tail on the Horse game for the dogs. The first spot of peanut butter the dog licked was its mark.

DSA Fall Round-Up (cont.)

Then, the participants played Bingo using dog treats as markers for their cards. The final activity of the weekend was a game of Jeopardy that contained categories focused on "The West". Participants played in teams and completed an answer sheet so everyone could play at the same time.

At the closing of the Round Up, participation certificates were passed out to each of the "ranchers" and activity winners.



A great time was had by all!

Yee



Haw!

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales



Ziva The Dog Who Paints *by Marsha Lindquist, AZ*

Ziva The Dog Who Paints is showing off her Dog Scout talent on Instagram (#ZivaTheDogWhoPaints) and Etsy zivathedogwhopaints.etsy.com

Ziva earned her Art of Shaping badge this summer. Since then, she just cannot stop painting! She is pictured here in her stylish signature turquoise beret in front of one of her canvases.

She began on hard paper stock and quickly moved to canvas - her preferred medium. She also paints on wood.

Few dogs who are painting do so with their paws. Ziva's talent is not unique to us Dog Scout parents, but it seems so to other people.



Her original paintings and canvas prints are up for sale on Etsy with the proceeds going to Dog Scouts of America! Please support her.

Troop 101—MI

Fay Reid (with help from Goldy)

Fall is upon us! We know this because we start the fall with the Lions Club Paws Palooza to help raise money for Leader Dogs for the Blind and the Bay County Animal Shelter.

In 2022, we met our new member Valerie Haller & Kyra at the Paws Palooza. In 2023 at the Paws Palooza, Kyra earned her first badge, the Art of Shaping! And then she got started on All Dogs Band!

Fay, Goldy, Kaylene, Molly & Jax participated in the parade and Goldy won 1st prize in her pink tutu!

We quartered some paper

and put them in Ziploc bags with paint and had passerby's try their tongues at peanut butter painting! We did notice that the labs had an easier time with the peanut butter painting, hmmm, Labs + Food (peanut butter) = great paintings!! Booker participated as much as he could, but with a torn ACL, he is on the injured reserve list, scheduled for surgery. We are hoping for the best for him and our prayers are with him! . . .

All in all the 2023 Paws Palooza was a success and we had 5 people sign up for more information. We will hold a Meet and Greet in October to hopefully welcome 5 new members!

Update: Booker's surgery went great and he is on his way to recovery and will be back to chasing those tennis balls hopefully soon!

At the September meeting, we practiced movement games that were taught at the MI camp, scent work for the new scent badges and obstacle courses. Remy & mom Vickie gave us a demonstration of the movement game.



Kyra concentrating on what her next stroke will be.



Goldy won the parade contest in her pink tutu!



Goldy, Molly, Booker & Jax posing with the Lion.



Molly & Jax in the parade.



Bystander's trying their tongues at peanut butter painting!



Jax & Molly are waiting for people to ask about their cool capes and badges!



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

The end of September brought the fun filled Craft Weekend - September 29 - October 1st, and October brought the Fall Round-up October 20 - 22nd.

Craft weekend, hosted by Troop 101, was filled with smelling!! With Goldy's birthday celebration looming in October there was a scramble to finish the new scent badges that were on Goldy's list of badges!

Although craft weekend is not about earning badges, it's supposed to be about crafting and relaxing, there was a lot of scenting going around! Goldy's mom Fay, willingly set up scents in cabins and on cars and evaluated anyone that wanted to try it and there were volunteers for Advanced Scent that is a prerequisite for the 2 Expert Sniffer badges.

Molly made Auntie Fay stop and work on Water Rescue with Goldy and her also. Goldy and Molly just have to save a "drowning" person in the water to earn their Water Rescue. This will have to wait until next summer when it warms up!

Goldy's mom also finished the handler portion of Disaster Preparedness!!! We were all excited for her as Goldy had completed her portion a long time ago and her mom just needed to complete the handler portion!!

Valerie & Kyra got introduced to Letterboxing and Geocaching! Kyra's dad was awesome and came up to camp on Saturday and cooked us all salmon, rice & asparagus complete with wine!!! (Not your typical crafting weekend meal!:) What a treat for all of us, it was delicious! P.S. I think Valerie and Kyra are hooked on Letterboxing!!



Group hike, even Booker got to join in on the golf cart after his ACL surgery!



Martha Thierry & Maia joined by Kaylene, Jax, Molly & Goldy (Fay behind camera) went for a Wet Dog Run stroll.



Water fun!!!



Valerie & Kyra found a Letterbox!



Molly, Jax & Kaylene taking a crafting break.

Goldy's Birthday - October 19, 2023 Goldy created a challenge for everyone that if you earned any of the badges (that were created since she became a Dog Scout in 2015), that she would donate \$10 out of her toy fund for every one of those badges that were earned.

Goldy's favorite of course has to do with water - SUP and while she loves scent work we had so much fun and are still using what we learned with the Canine Cognition badge.

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

October 20 - 22nd Giddy Up Lil' Doggies!!!
The **Fall Round-up** arrived! We all had a great time silver mining, rounding up cows, searching out the bandit, tossin' the vittles, branding steers, square dancing and the Virginia Reel (with our dogs of course!) And of course, hiking with our pups and enjoying the beautiful Fall colors was also a high priority! Whew, there was a lot going on!



Jax got first for his awesome silver mining skills! He pointed out all of the pieces of silver!!



Group hike around the



Round up those cows Fay!!



Really mom? Do we have to wear the hats?



Toss the Vittles (cheese puffs) to humans



Square dancin' with our pups



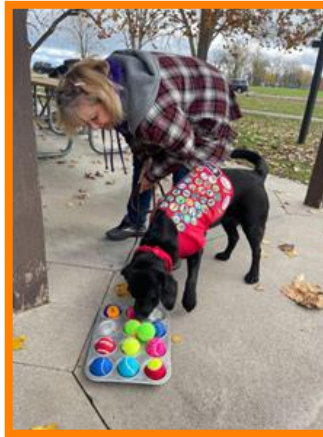
Beautiful fall day!

October 28th we had a **Meet & Greet** at the Bay City State Park and invited those that signed up at the Paws Palooza to come out and ask questions and play some games. Katie & Ellie (I don't know what breed Ellie is but she is sooo small and sooo adorable!) and Cathy & Jasper (5 month old yellow lab) attended and Cathy had lots of questions and she already does treasure hunts, so she was also very interested in Letterboxing and Geocaching! I see some group Letterboxing adventures in our future. And another lab...hmmm, I also predict some canoe trips and kayaking next summer! Looking back at the pictures under our September meeting, there was a pic of Goldy, Molly and Remy in a pool, Troop 101's "Lab Pack", we hope that Jasper will soon be added to the "Lab Pack".



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

We changed the silver mining game from the Fall Roundup and had our dogs touch skulls instead of silver (in celebration of Halloween!) and the handler got the number of skulls touched in cheeseballs to throw into a cauldron (not an easy task on a cool breezy day by the lake!). We also put tennis balls in a muffin tin with treats under them, Kyra & Jax were not overly impressed with this game, it involved getting a little chaotic and getting tennis balls out of the way to get to the treats, Kyra and Jax like the more laid back games...but Goldy, Molly, Booker and (hopefully up and coming Dog Scout) Jasper absolutely loved this game. Mostly we talked about Dog Scouts and how it has helped our dogs, badges have given us purpose to keep our dogs engaged with us and others. We hope that Katie & adorable Ellie, Cathy and Jasper will be our next new members. We are going to start reviewing and discussing the Handler portion of the Dog Scout test to answer any questions they have about the test at the next several meetings.



November 5, 2023 meeting
- it was a beautiful day for an outdoor concert put on by artists, Kyra, Molly & Goldy.

We worked on Rally Free moves, did "leave it" with two kittens, discussed Letterboxing and Geocaching.



Completing the DSA handler test can be a little intimidating so we decided as a troop to spend some time at each meeting to go over a few of the questions. This month both questions generated some very good discussion:

Question 25: During the "friendly with other dogs" portion, if Rover greets your dog in a rude manner and your dog snaps at Rover, is this acceptable behavior from your dog? Why, or why not?

- Yes to a degree, they are dogs and it is in their nature & way they communicate to other dogs that don't follow the "rules".
- As the smart end of the leash we can help manage the situation by:
 - ◇ Be aware of your dogs threshold
 - ◇ Redirecting your dog,
 - ◇ Body blocking

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Question 32: If you saw someone training their dog using very harsh methods, (severely, leash corrections, yelling, etc.) what would you do? Ideas - Comments,

- “I’ve had that situation with my dog, if you’d like some suggestions how I helped my dog out”
- “Can I give you a few tips?”
- Compliment them about something about the dog to redirect them to give time to cool down.
- Give card or brochure about Dog Scouts & website,
- My dog was career changed for sound sensitivity and doesn’t like loud voices
- Not get involved in the confrontation,
- Move my dog away from the situation.

What would you do?



After the meeting Kyra & Goldy took their moms out for a little Geocaching where Valerie & Kyra got their 1st one called Red Low.

November 18, 2023 **Midland Santa Parade** followed by a Cocoa Walk around town - the theme this year was “Star of Wonder”



Fay, Laurie, Booker, Goldy, Kaylene & Jax waiting for the parade to begin (3.1 miles).



Jax pulling his cart looking festive in his blue star coat!



Fay & Goldy



Laurie & Booker

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

November 25, 2023 **Garden City Santaland Parade** with Troop 217 - theme this year is "Red and White and Jingle Bells - a Patriotic Christmas." Many of our members trekked down to Garden City to support our sister Troop 217 with their Christmas parade.



CONGRATULATIONS TO TROOP MEMBERS ON BADGES, SKILLS, AND TITLES EARNED THIS QUARTER . . .

The Long kids, Jax & Molly, have been busy finishing up badges previously started, along with some new ones. They both completed Sign Language, Biking, DOGa, Disabled Dog, Trail Dog Excellent. Jax also completed Therapy and Community Service 1. Molly earned Agility Partners, Water Retrieve, Adv. Scent and Expert Sniffers - Exteriors, Retrieve, Naked Dog and GEO Scent.

Kyra completed the Art of Shaping. Congratulations.

Remy earned her Scent Discrimination, Art of Shaping, & All Dogs Band.

Goldy - Disaster Preparedness, Rally FrEe - Intermediate and Advanced. Expert Sniffers Interior & Exterior, and the No Contact Agility badges.

Booker - Rally FrEe Novice, No Contact Agility, Advanced Scent, Expert Sniffer - Interior.

The Olson kids were hot on the scent trail earning Caper & Scallywag the Advanced Scent and Kismet earned the Expert Sniffers - Interiors!

Troop 119—N TX—Lone Star Paws Squad

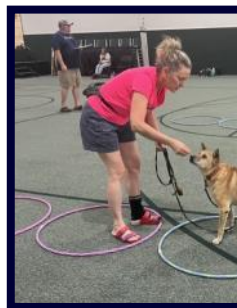
Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has had their usual busy, busy fall as our biggest events of the year fall within the same month.

We kicked off our fall in September with a troop favorite meeting – Doggie Games!

The dogs and their humans split into two teams to compete in a series of fun games with a training purpose – mainly.

The dogs didn't know they were showing off their skills, they just knew they were having a great time with their humans. Fun was had by the dogs and humans alike.



Our October meeting, which was slated to be an intro to Barn Hunt, got cancelled after record rains (over 11 inches) fell over a few days. We all stayed home and off of the flooded streets and kept ourselves and our pooches safe.

And then came November – our whirlwind month!



We kicked off the month with our annual invitation to do a presentation for several Cub Scouts troops.

The theme was loyalty and we had several troop members lead the presentation and did a great job! Afterwards, the troop dogs were stationed around the room and their new little friends made their ways around the room to meet the dogs and ask questions of their handlers.



The dogs all did a great job representing Dog Scouts of the kids, and parents, had a great time as well.

Troop 119—N TX (Cont.)

Next up in November was our 19th annual Texas Mini-Camp! We dealt with a rainy first day but it didn't put a damper on everybody's excitement to be at camp.

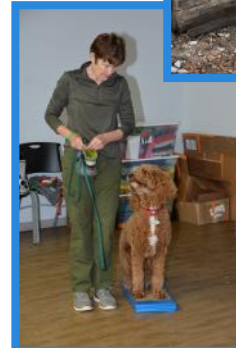
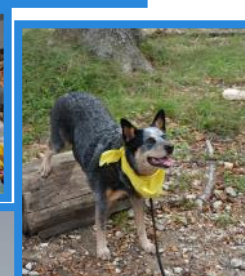
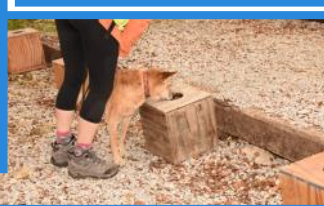
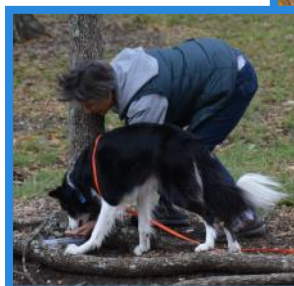
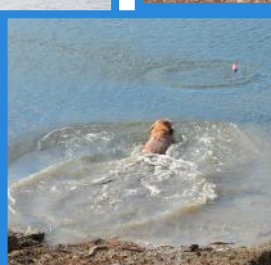
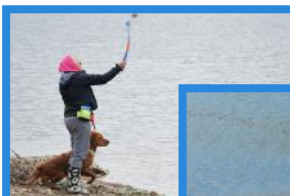
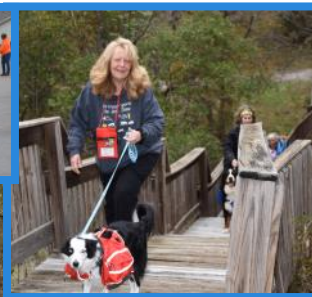
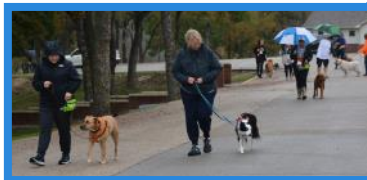
We had a rock star line up of instructors and an awesome group of campers – 2-legged and 4-legged. We had campers come from 10 different states, including California, Washington and Florida!

This year seemed to turn into a scent-centric camp with offerings for nose work badges like GeoScenting and Tracking, Find It games to help a dog work his nose for fun, and snuffle mats for the Arfs & Crafts project.

We honored our senior-most camp dogs (that were young 14, 16 and 17 year olds!) and also had a fresh batch of puppies that attended camp for their first time – four pups around 9 months old and under. And, of course, a lot of variety in between.

We had nine dogs become new Dog Scouts at camp and we had our usual Texas mini-camp experiences of sharing, caring, learning, having fun, catching up with long-time friends and making new ones.

We had a great time and continue to be thankful year after year for all those who help contribute to a great camp experience.



Troop 119—N TX (Cont.)



Then just a short two weeks following mini-camp, we culminate our biggest community service event of the year with our Meals On Wheels for Pets Project. This year was our 20th year for this project and while it keeps getting bigger every year, this year was huge! Besides having our annual pet food drive, we provided gift bags for 190 dogs and 113 cats! Our troop members, together with friends, family, coworkers, etc. donated/collected 2,300 lbs of pet food, 3,400 toys, 500 lbs of biscuits/cookies, 900 chews, 350 bags of treats as well as holiday bandanas, collars, leashes, poop bag rolls, outfits, etc. We had a great turn-out for putting the bags together and are so thankful that so many pets will have another great holiday season!



We're looking forward to seeing what is in store in 2024!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Submitted by Fran Beezley and Dog Scout Barney

September 2023

Our September meeting was a time for fun. After our hike around Des Peres Park, the dogs got to play “A Minute To Win It”. There were a lot of objects available for them to show their skills.

Of course, no one cared if anyone actually “won”. It was all for fun and they had plenty of it.



October 2023

Today was declared “Use Your Nose” Day as the dogs got to gather clues from various scented (with stinky treats) items. Once they gathered all the clues, they could solve the mystery and search for the Great White Pumpkin where they were rewarded with more treats.

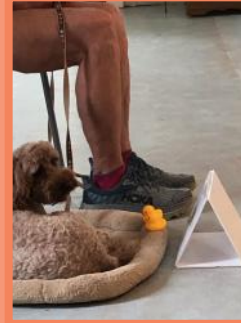


Troop 150—AR

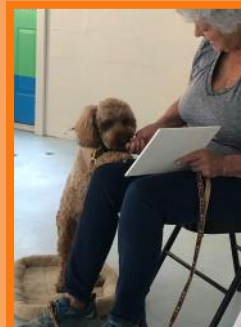
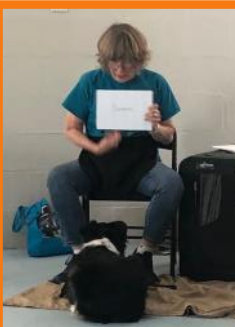
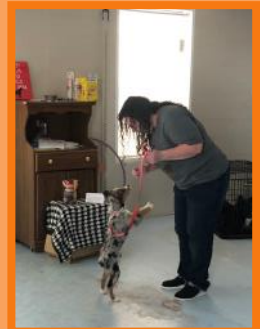
Sharon Branyan



In September, we were delighted to have a mini aussie puppy, Ranger, and his human Barbara meet with us. Barbara is a DSA Scoutmaster who moved from Michigan to Oklahoma this year and found us as her closest local troop. Welcome to the area and to our troop, Barb and Ranger! We have several dogs who are working for their Dog Scout title and at this meeting we focused on “leave it” and “stay”. We have been playing games from the Canine Cognition badge all year and at this meeting our dogs learned to count (up to 3), using identical rubber duckies as the objects.



In October, Puppy Ranger and Barb returned and brought Ranger's sister Rusti and Barb's daughter-in-law Pauline for double mini-Aussie fun! Our dogs learned to “read” by associating a visual word sign with a known behavior, another game from the Canine Cognition badge. Then dogs and handlers had fun at several “Trick AND Treat” stations. The dogs earned a treat at each station by performing a trick of a designated type, such as “using their paw”, “using their mouth”, “using both dog and handler bodies”, “trick of dog's choice”, etc. Pictured (*starting bottom left*): Kai reads “Down”, Ricky reads “Dance”, Ranger reads “Sit”, and Ruby reads “Paws Up”. For tricks, Ranger goes “Through” and Rusti (*pictured right*) chooses to “Dance”.



In November we have several members who attend the Texas Dog Scout Mini-Camp so our troop meeting is combined with December, but we had a couple of significant events. Dog Scout Maddy celebrated her 17th birthday on Nov 17th, just after she returned from Mini-Camp. Our Troop Leader, Sharon Gruetzmacher, received her Silver Versatile Troop Leader certificate for earning badges with Duncan in multiple categories as a Troop Leader. Duncan is no longer with us, but he was the first Dog Scout in Arkansas and the founding dog member of our troop.

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Halloween Celebration

Shari and Penny, Monica and Biscoff and Bubbles, Teresa and Ripley, Dawn and River, Patricia and Luna, Emily and Aurora, and Roxana and Henry participated in our Halloween celebration this year. Christine picked up the breakfast and after some coffee and food, we had some fun.

Up first was photographing our costumes followed by our costume contest. We had two winners, Christine and Clover, dressed as Lilo and Stitch, and Roxana dressed in a traditional German Dirndl and Henry dressed as a bratwurst for Oktoberfest. Monica and Biscoff wowed us with some fancy Leave It skills and won our contest.

We appreciate Monica being our unofficial group photographer and for Christine's photography skills. We packed up and took a walk around TY Park.



November – Kukur Tihar

Kukur Tihar or literally means the worship of dogs. This is a mini-festival within a larger Hindu celebration of Diwali, the festival of lights. According to Nepalese tradition, one of the festive days is dedicated solely to the human's most devoted friend and guardian. In Hindu religion, a dog is a sacred animal, intended to have a special bond with a human, to accompany us on our way to heaven.

On November 12, dog scouts Penny, Clover, and River Were treated with special love and admiration. Each one had a flower garland or malla placed around her neck. Their foreheads were painted with a tikka made from red-colored powder and yogurt. This marking symbolizes their sacredness. Their favorite part of the celebration was to feast on turkey meatballs. After a few photos, handlers Sari Hain, Christine Geschwill, and Dawn Hanna treated Penny, Clover, and River to a trail hike in Tree Tops Park in Davie.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)

November - Sparky's Turkey Trot

This year we kept with tradition meeting at a local park to participate in our 9th Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot. We scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories and catch up with each other. The weather was beautiful this year and perfect for a walk unlike years past. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations, such as Costa Rica.



Additionally, we had a nice surprise from one of our founding Troop Leader's Cynthia Stone and her Dog Scout Nola-Jade who sent us pictures from Louisiana.

A BIG THANKS goes out to Clover (Christine), Ripley (Teresa), Penny (Shari), River (Dawn), and Jolie (Maria) for participating in the 2023 Turkey Trot and prior years.

Sending Happy Holidays to everyone!



Troop 177—IN

Robyn Porter

Troop #177 met on November 19 to practice an obstacle course and celebrate Hallie's 15th birthday!



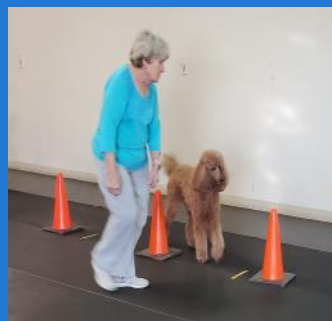
Griffin and Hallie pose



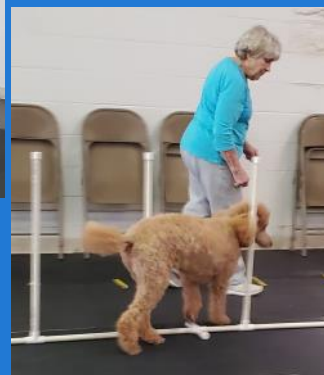
Penny, Zoey, Hallie and Willow



Pretty Penny



Peggy takes Zoey through cones



Peggy takes Penny through weave poles



Deb Fortier's Rose on Sparky's Turkey Trot

Troop members participated in Sparky's Turkey Trot during Thanksgiving week! Deborah Fortier and Robyn Porter participated with Rose and Hallie.

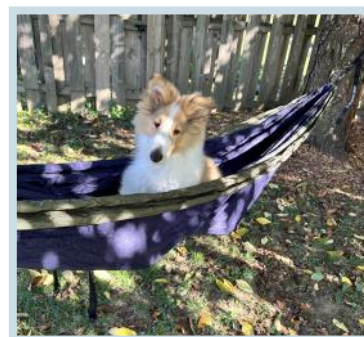
Troop 177 has a new Pup Scout!

Tara Derisse has a Rough Collie pup named Cooper.

Cooper is working on his Pup Scout skills assisted by big sister Willow!



Cooper and Willow



Cute Cooper

Hallie and Robyn began ringing bells for Salvation Army the day after Thanksgiving! Hallie is a good fundraiser!



Hallie encouraging donations!

Paws Pack 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

Troop 183 dogs sniffed out target odor in September,



and their humans enjoyed a pontoon boat ride and had lunch together in October— It's fun arriving at the restaurant by boat, and we're always appreciative of how smoothly Captain Dave navigates the tight turns to get us neatly docked!



The dogs bounced around enjoying slightly cooler weather for agility in November.

And while we weren't able to gather as a troop for the Turkey Trot, we each trotted our individual miles during the week of Thanksgiving.



We're looking forward to Barn Hunt, gobbling miles for the 5-mile Gobbler, and meeting Arizona DSA member, Marsha Lindquist, who will be in the area for the holidays to round out 2023.

Once the new year rolls around we will get together to plan our activities . . .

we're looking forward to 2024!

Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Michelle Lake, Co-Leader



The Troop spent two full days at the Chester Dog Fair – an amazing event full of vendors, pet related services, demos, food trucks, and fun! We had a booth, donated a raffle basket, and ran CGC testing too. We participated in the Doggie Olympics and Thunder and Nell both won their heats in the pie eating contest. While at the booth we had our scouts demo the Emergency Pet Breathing Kits.



Major passed the AKC Community Canine test



Members Doug and Firefly headed to Springfield, MO for NADD Nationals! Unfortunately, Firefly was a bit injured and didn't jump with her usual enthusiasm. Doug made it into the top 15 and earned his Dock Novice Advanced title. Super proud of our sporting scouts!



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

The Troop spent the day checking micro-chips at a local training facilities' Client Appreciation Day. Thank you to member Tracy Brown for the photo!



In honor of our 15th Anniversary year, four of our original members got together and sponsored a buoy on an amazing Lobster Trap Tree getting ready to light up the winter nights soon. A local artist was paired up with the troop and created this amazing buoy. We can't wait to see it in person and try to find it on the tree! With over 450 buoys, it's going to be a challenge to find it. Below is the Facebook post announcing the buoy.



Stonington Lobster Trap Tree

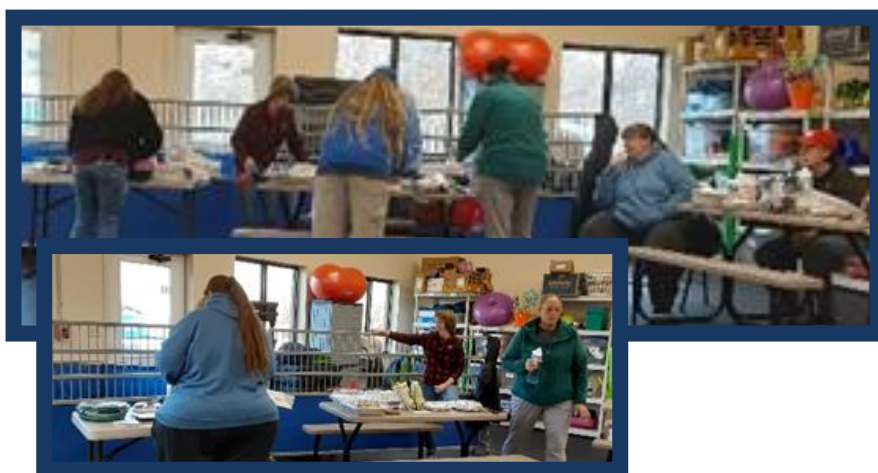
October 27 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

Thank you to [DSA Troop 188](https://www.dsatroop188.com/) for sponsoring this buoy! DSA Troop 188, located near the Connecticut / Rhode Island border, is a member of Dog Scouts of America. Dog Scouts of America, a non profit organization similar to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, is a growing organization of people who care about animals and the society in which we live. The goals of DSA are to promote responsible pet ownership and increase awareness about the human/companion animal bond. This buoy was painted by Jenette DelMonaco who discovered her passion and talent for painting pet portraits during the 2020 lockdowns. Since then, Jenette has completed over 100 custom pet portraits! Jenette is proud to support the Dog Scouts of America by painting the four founders of Troop #188: Ella, Phantom, Lucy and Pirate. All four have since passed over the rainbow bridge and this buoy was sponsored to honor them and their contributions to their local community. <https://www.dsatroop188.com/>



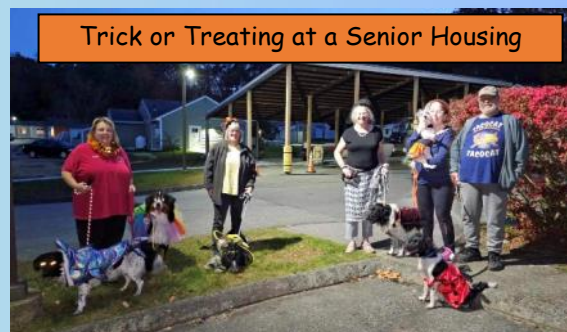
Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Our October meeting featured Halloween and Thanksgiving photo shoot backdrops and some costumes to try.



Friendsgiving was celebrated at the November meeting. For a fun twist, we brought dishes from our dogs country of origin. Some delicacies were Mexican Street Corn, Dutch Apple pie, Poutine, Sausage-wurst, German potato salad, Bavarian pretzels, Irish potato chips, Swiss cheese, English tea and scones, Tompouce (a Dutch pastry), Scottish Rumbledethumps, and British Banoffee pie. We did not go home hungry!

WALKS AND HIKES



WALKS AND HIKES



We took advantage of a warm November day and headed to the beach for a lovely walk. We worked on loose leash walking, greeting on leash and some urban hiking along the way



A Veteran's Day walk was held at a monument in a neighboring town



We visited an outdoor shopping area and worked on greeting the public, loose leash walking, urban hiking, and fitness.



WALKS AND HIKES



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

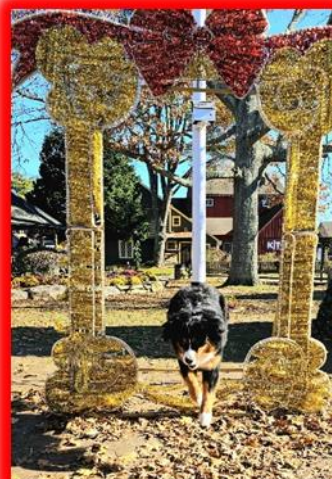
Thunder and Nell (not pictured) took an Introduction to Hoopers class and had fun running through the non-contact obstacles.



Sassy and Thunder are leaping into the spirit of the holidays.



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



From our troop to yours, wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Troop 198—CA

Janet Gee

This fall, our Turkey Trot/Agility Course and Howl-o-Ween party again were our highlight events, while we also enjoyed pack walks and training at a local mall and park.

Turkey Trot/Lure Course – In addition to participating in Scouts' Sparky's Annual Turkey Trot, this year, Troop Leaders Carlotta and Leah set up three sets of agility equipment so that everyone could practice using the different types of jumps, tunnels and an A-Frame for the Obstacle 1 Badge.

Set up for beginners, intermediate and official routes for the badge, everyone had lots of time to practice and many of our scouts surprised us with how fast they conquered the equipment!

Carlotta with Luna, Patty with Sprocket, and Lennie with Rylee kick off our trot.



Of course, our Trot included our usual stand/sit/stay by both uprights and four-legged:

Agility participants Junie and Jelly climb and descend the A-Frame, Rylee leaps over the hurdle, and Sprocket finishes the tunnel.



Pack Walks at the Mall and Park - We had two training walks at Santana Row mall to practice Urban Badge skills around other dogs and people. Our sit/stay location is always a challenging one next to a busy six-lane street with cars, bikes and unpredictable pedestrians to distract the troop. We had a big pack on October, with Jelly, Janet Gee, Kiri, Kelley, Daniel, Eevee, Joyce, Cider, Mark, Juni, Sadie, Sharon, Scout, Kim, Trevor, Don, Bella, Celine, Stephanie, Kida, Lennie and Ryelee:.



Stairs and elevators are always on the agenda to practice on.



And an intimate pack of Rita, Issy, Luna, Carlotta, Trevor, Kate and Cora in November.

The mall has beautiful and early holiday decorations for the troop to practice their sit/stay without their hoomans.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

At Calero Park, we practiced loose-leash walking when passing other dogs, and going to the mat.



Howl-o-ween Party – Pet Food Express in Campbell again graciously hosted our annual party, where our organizer extraordinaire, Leah, had a variety of training games for our decked-out troop.



Rockstar Scout with mom Sharon, and Inmates Patty and Sprocket ready to do their time.



Princess Christina with her Three Musketeers, Bailey, Crystal and Luna, and Musketeer-in-training Juni with dad Mark.

Pinata Lucky is ready to devour the treats hidden under the tennis ball cupcakes as mom Abigail tries to hold him back in vain.





Ladybug Sadie and
Pumpkin Bella
both get strikes.



Bowling for treats is always a popular sport with lots of nose-work, here SuperDog Trevor contemplates his spare, while Crayon Cora, Lion Seeger, Pumpkin Memphis, and un-Musketeered Bailey wait their turn in the background.

Tic-Tac-Dog is always a great way to practice sit/down-stay with so many competitors and team-mates nearby.

Accomplishments

Trevor's Therapy Dog Title arrived, which took 50 visits as a certified therapy dog to earn. He and mom Leah have already logged visits towards the Therapy Dog Advanced Title.



Bailey worked really hard on his Dog Scout badges this year, earning 10 badges in multiple categories to help Carlotta earn the Silver Versatile Leader certificate. He has earned his Parkour 1, Lure Coursing, Art of Shaping, Dog Care, Clean Up America 2, All Dogs Band, Carting, Travel Safety, and Urban Hiking,



Luna also earned her Clean Up America 2 badge, here she was well on her way to finding her 50th deposit.

Bailey, Crystal, and Luna also all earned their K9 CPR badges and Bronze Fit titles.



Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Fall has been a really busy time for our troop and has included some of our favorite activities. Several of our members attended the annual Craft Weekend at camp. This is always a really fun weekend where we are all able to work on our individual crafts in the lodge. The event is kept small so that we can all fit in the main room, and we are able to have our dogs by our sides. This year I did some sewing. I made a quilt top and then taught others how to make felt wreaths for fall. Melissa Perez worked on making some beautiful jewelry and Martha Thierry did some painting. The dogs weren't left out though. We made sure they had plenty of time to hike and play games.



Many of us also attended the Fall Round-Up at camp hosted this year by our own Diane Baughman and Diane Cranston. The western theme was quite a bit of fun and the games really kept us all laughing.



A couple of us traveled to Grand Rapids in the western part of the state to attend a Letterboxing event. Our troop really loves letterboxing and we never miss an opportunity to attend an event if we can. Though the weather was a bit sketchy with rain, there were enough moments of sunshine to make up for all the rain. It was a fun weekend, and best of all, the trails were mostly flat and not too rugged for those of us who aren't always steady on our feet.



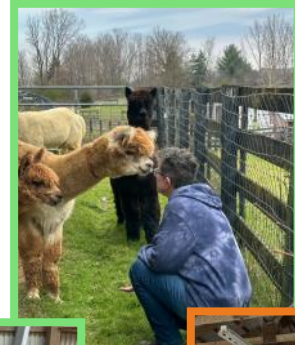
Troop members Martha Thierry with Maia and Connie Hunt with Gracie represented us well at the Hot Cider Hustle in St. Clair Shores. This is a 5k/10k event advertised as "apple spiced running" because the main attraction is all of the yummy kinds of hot cider you get to taste by filling your mug over and over again. Maia and Gracie were perfect Dog Scout ambassadors and had fun telling everyone about all of the great stuff we do.

Troop 217—MI (Cont.)



Katie went with Julie Lawler-Hoyle to participate in a local Alzheimer's walk. This was really special as the event took place in the community where Katie's littermate Sam visited for many years. Katie was able to bring joy and smiles to the residents and families and honor her brother at the same time.

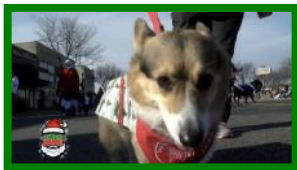
Our biggest endeavor this fall was building our first ever parade float! We had big ideas and brought the troop together for two float building sessions. We made it fun with music and food and took advantage of the opportunity on Barrie Lynn Wood's farm to show the dogs horses and alpacas. For some dogs this was their first time seeing these animals and they all behaved beautifully. Somehow we were able to bring our ideas to life in a short amount of time, ending up with 3 tall evergreen plywood trees, a fake fire pit with a fire that moved thanks to a fan underneath, a tent with life sized stuff dogs peeking out, a flagpole holding the US flag, camp stools for people to sit around the fire, and even a sledding hill in the back of our tow vehicle with stuffed dogs riding down on toboggans. I'm not even sure how we pulled all that off, but somehow it all came out great!



Troop 217—MI (Cont.)

Then it was time for the Garden City Santaland Parade! This parade is a large community parade that is televised locally and streamed live on Facebook and YouTube, and it's a tradition for our troop. This year we were really excited to show them our float! The parade had over 1300 individual participants, 190 participant groups and 54 floats.

We had a really nice group for the parade including some members of our sister Troop 101, with 3 people and dogs sitting around the fire on the float and another 15 people and dogs walking behind the float. We all were wearing our new red jackets with the DSA logo on the back and our troop logo embroidered on the front. We really drew a lot of attention this year! I was shocked when we got to the announcer booth and they recognized us as the 3rd place finisher in the float contest! They handed me a nice plaque and I could not have been prouder. This float took quite a bit of effort and could not have been done without the help of everyone who participated in the building of the float. We truly have an amazing group of people in our troop!



We are continuing with our Zoom meetings and through the winter will be working on the Parkour badge. I started by introducing the badge and then assigning some things for people to work on with their dogs. During December we are teaching our dogs the concepts of 2 feet on and 4 feet on and the ability to distinguish between the two when using the same objects. We also have the dogs working on getting in something like a box or a laundry basket that is shorter than the length of the dog, as well as sending the dog to put 4 feet on an object that is at least 5 feet away. We will have a chance to demonstrate what the dogs have learned when we get together in January.

Troop 217—MI (Cont.)

Our dogs accomplished quite a bit in 2023. We have 3 dogs that earned their Dog Scout titles and dogs in the troop earned a collective 47 merit badges during the year. Additionally, our dogs earned 7 Trails titles during the year.

Dogs in our troop compete in many dog sports including agility and scent work and have had a lot of success this year. And recently, Matty Ashford and our puppy Bruno both earned their Canine Good Citizen titles.



Sadly, we lost a very important troop member in November. Maia Thierry was 15 ½ at the time of her passing. Maia accomplished so much in her lifetime. She was an Honor Scout and earned many badges including 3 very challenging badges after she turned 15 years old. Maia did therapy work throughout her life and was excellent at using her nose. But more than all her accomplishments, Maia was an inspiration to many people. She was sweet, and kind, and a bit of a jokester too. She always put a smile on my face and never failed to poke at my pocket, just in case I had a treat for her, and I usually did. I'm pretty sure she knew when I didn't have any treats on me, but she never failed to poke my pocket because she knew it made me laugh. I am so glad that Maia got to participate in this year's parade before she passed just a few days later.



Maia, it was an honor and a pleasure to have known you. I'll miss you, and so many others that you touched during your life will too. RIP sweet girl. ❤️

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/](https://www.instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/)

Youtube: [Dog Scouts of America - YouTube](#)

#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

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Evaluator Certification: troops@dogscouts.org

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

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

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

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(Also for newsletter distribution)