



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Dog Scout Certification

The Dog Scout Badge is not a “walk-in” test. The Scoutmaster Evaluator must observe the dog on 3 separate occasions in order to complete the requirements for the badge. The Evaluator may ask for more repetitions than required if he/she doesn’t feel the requirements have been clearly demonstrated. Handler should understand that the dog requirements for the badge are critical skills that must be worked on and reinforced throughout the dog’s life. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods. Behaviors may not be rewarded with food (or other valued item like a favorite toy), luring or the implications or food rewards during testing. The dog may be rewarded between test items as directed by the Evaluator.

- Handler has completed the [DSA handler written test](#) and has submitted it to the Scoutmaster (not required if handler has previously passed the Dog Scout test with another dog)**
- Handler can explain the Dog Scout laws in his/her own words and promises to uphold them
- Handler manages dog’s environment to keep the dog feeling safe
- Handler can explain when to use the phrase, “please get your dog back”
- Handler can explain how to encourage a proper greeting behavior between dogs
- Handler understands that aggression is normal dog “language” and can explain how to help the dog make choices other than displaying aggression
- Handler can explain the value of helping the dog make good choices using indirect access
- Handler can list 2 indirect access exercises
- Handler understands the use of and can explain at least 3 calming signals
- Handler can describe/demonstrate the proper way to pick up and dispose of dog waste**
- Handler must always have at least 2 waste pick up bags with them when the dog is present**
- Dog is safe around people and demonstrates meeting strangers 2 times under normal circumstances with handler support and management**
- Dog is safe and comfortable around other dogs on leash in a managed environment**
- Dog will sit at least 2 times in response to a verbal and/or visual cue while the leash remains loose**
- Dog will lie down at least 2 times in response to a verbal and/or visual cue while the leash remains loose**
- Dog will come directly to the handler 2 times when called from a distance of at least 20’**



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- Dog will perform a stay 2 times in either a sit or down position while the handler walks at least 20' away and returns to the dog (walking around dog to heel is not required)**
- Dog demonstrates an understanding of the heel position and heel cue and will chose to remain in the proper position during a heel pattern that includes a left, right and u-turn with a distance of at least 20' between turns (leash remains loose at all times and the pattern is performed at least twice)**
- Dog can sit when the handler stops at least 2 times while performing the heel pattern (leash tightening is not a part of the cue to sit)**
- Dog can perform a leave it with food at least 3 times with the food in different locations where the dog clearly shows an interest in the food but makes the choice to leave it (dog passes close enough to get the food and the leash remains loose)**
- Dog can perform a leave it with an animal of another species at least 3 times with the animal in different locations where the dog clearly shows an interest in the animal but makes the choice to leave it (dog passes close enough to get to the animal and the leash remains loose)**

Handler understands that a qualified Scoutmaster Evaluator may require a retest on any item or on the entire test even after the dog has met the requirements initially if the Evaluator sees a pattern of behavior that is not in line with what is required ongoing of any Dog Scout.