



**Dog Scouts of America**  
**Evaluation Criteria**

**Fundraising 1**  
**Baskets & Handles**

**PURPOSE:** This badge demonstrates the dog’s ability to “panhandle” as a means of fundraising.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** The dog must demonstrate a willingness and ability to take, hold and carry baskets/buckets of varying materials and weights and with different types of handles. The dog must pick the container up on cue, walk while carrying it and give it on cue by putting it on the floor or in the handler’s hand as directed.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** The handler must understand the concepts of operant conditioning, shaping and behavior chaining and must use these methods in teaching the dog to panhandle.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** Baskets, buckets or other containers with handles are needed for this badge. Baskets must be made of varying materials such as wood, wicker, plastic or wire and have different types of handles like fixed, rigid, swinging, thick, skinny, etc. It is implied that each type of handle has a basket attached. Money, both bills and change should be available as well as at least 4 people to participate in the exercises.

**PROCESS:** The dog must be comfortable with all of the baskets used and should demonstrate the ‘handle’ requirements with each of the containers. There should be a clear willingness to lift and hold each type, but dogs will naturally prefer one type of container and may complete the remaining requirements with his ‘favorite’.

The containers used may have a combination of material and handle types such as a wood basket with a swinging handle, a wicker basket with a fixed handle, a wire basket with a skinny handle or even a paper bag with a woven handle. Padding or wrapping may be added to the handle of the dog’s favorite container. This can be tape, foam or whatever helps the dog be comfortable with “his” basket.

The dog must be able to hold the handle for a minimum of 5 seconds as measured by a standard timepiece when asked. When carrying the basket in a heel position it should be clear that the dog understands that he is being asked to heel as for the Dog Scout test and should maintain the heel position with the basket in his mouth. The ‘heel’ may be performed with the dog on the left or right.

Lightly weighted and heavy are relative to the size of the dog. A large dog should be able to handle the weight of as much as a few rolls of coins but it would be unlikely that a toy breed could handle that same weight.

**ALLOWED:**

- Smaller baskets for small dogs

**NOT ALLOWED:**

- Dropping the basket without being cued
- Picking the basket up by any part other than the handle