

## How to log activities for the Community Service badge

### Details and categories

- As applicable, events and dollars counted toward the general Community Service badges may be counted towards other more specific service-oriented badges.
- Hours are cumulative – hours from level 1 and 2 continue to count toward the higher levels, dog does not "start from zero" for each badge.
- Handler can either submit log for level 2 and 3 including all of the required hours or may submit signed badge form for the previous level, plus logs for further hours.
- If the dog meets the requirements, the dog may earn a Level 2 or 3 badge without submitting for all earlier levels of the badge.
- People with multiple dogs will need to meet the requirements with each dog separately, even if more than one dog attends events together or helps with the same fundraising.

### **CATEGORIES:**

**FUNDRAISING: (\$300)** This can be money the dog collects either by putting it in a basket or by holding a donation basket or wearing a “donate” vest with pockets to hold the donations. Dogs can also perform cute tricks or give kisses for donations. These funds need to be for a non-profit organization like DSA, a local shelter or a rescue group or to help a specific dog like a bullet proof vest for a police dog or equipment for a search and rescue dog. Funds can also be raised to help a troop provide community services like the pet food and toys for the pets of the recipients of the meals on wheels program or pet oxygen masks for a fire department.

Hours spent collecting donations can’t also be counted in other categories. If you choose to count the hours you may not also count the dollars raised, and vice versa.

Hours cannot be counted twice even if the activity would fall under multiple categories.

Acceptable events are: walk-athons, mush-athons, sales items with the proceeds (net) going to a worthwhile charity including DSA, door-to-door fundraising, booth work, bell-ringing type donation collection, etc.

Worthwhile charities are non-profit organizations which educate and/or benefit man and/or animals (excluding HSUS, PETA, and ALF, who are extremist, animal “rights” activist groups whose activities we do not support). Acceptable examples: DSA, breed rescue groups, local humane societies, American Humane Association, shelters, service dog training organizations like PAWS or Leader Dogs, American Cancer Society, MDA, CROP, etc.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION (need at least 10 hours):**

Public Education is any activity where you disseminate information to the public that benefits DSA, dogs and/or the relationship dogs have with people. Troop meetings don't qualify, unless you offer a special event that is open to the public and you advertise it as such so that the entire community knows they are welcome.

**Speaking Engagements:** You and your dog can give a presentation to a School, a Lion's Club, a Business Women's Group, the Boy or Girl Scouts, or Local Dog Club. Topics could include:

Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO)

DSA's Mission of Promoting RDO and the Human/Canine Bond

Bite Prevention

Safety Days (Check with your community—most have these)

Positive Training

The importance of Socializing, Training, Neutering and Containing

Any activity that's fun for dogs and people together (pick a badge)

Disaster Preparedness

Travel Safety

Canine First Aid

**Pet Fair Booths (Educational Booths):** At these, it is assumed that you will be distributing helpful information and one-on-one education about responsible pet parenting, as well as possibly introducing local pet owners to the idea of belonging to your troop. You can claim credit for these if the booth is specifically a DSA educational booth, or if you are working a booth for the animal shelter, a breed rescue or other non-profit organization. If you are working a booth for a "for-profit" organization, like a dog training school, or product, you can not count it. Count the number of hours that you and your dog personally worked the booth. Don't count lunch hours or the total hours the show was open, unless you worked all of them.

- In addition to pet fairs and mutt marches, you may also be able to get a booth at the local County Fair at little or no cost, where you can promote responsible pet parenting, Dog Scouts, and your local troop.

## **CIVIC INVOLVEMENT: (Helps the community) (need at least 10 hours):**

**Community Clean-up:** Your troop could participate in the "adopt a highway" program or participate in cleaning up a local park. This can be done as a community project, a troop project, or on an individual basis. Your dog can help you in various ways:

- Pull the "poop wagon" at a dog park clean up
- Help retrieve plastic bottles or other safe trash found in the area
- Help you find items that need picking up

Examples: one member has adopted a section of highway, and always has her well-behaved Scouts accompany her in uniform as she cleans up the section of road. This is often a head-turner, and has attracted the attention of the press, providing positive publicity for Dog Scouts.

**Parades:** You could participate as a troop or individual in a local parade. You can hand out literature about responsible pet parenting, or your troop's business cards. One troop buys lots of inexpensive dog toys at the dollar store, has the dogs pull wagons with the toys, and tosses the toys out to people who are attending the parade with their own dogs (after all the dogs can't eat the candy!). The toys could have information attached in the form of a sticker or business card, giving the web site info and contact info for the local troop. Many communities have parades on holidays, such as Independence Day, Memorial Day, Christmas, and Easter, as well as local events, like Founder's Day, Blue Gill Festival, Watermelon Festival, County Fair, etc. Some parade ideas:

- Create a float by decorating a wagon that your dog(s) can pull
- Attach a string of dogs (sled-dog style) to an ATV or garden tractor and have someone leading the team in addition to the tractor controlling them
- Participate as a walking group: For Christmas light parades, you can get battery operated colored lights that your dogs could wear in the parade. If you want to include a vehicle, decorate a VW beetle or other car to look like a dog (add ears, a tongue, a tail and eyes), or do the same to an ATV, golf cart, trailer, etc.
- Participate as a biking group: Have the bikes decorated, and the dogs attached to springers on the bikes
- Don't forget to carry a banner. It's easy for people to think you are a therapy dog group or a service dog group. You want everyone to know that you represent Dog Scouts!

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing:** Normally, you would count the funds raised for the Salvation Army under Fundraising. However, if you and your dog have met the minimum requirement for the number of dollars raised, you can count subsequent hours of bell ringing as community service. Also, you may not be able to find out exactly how much money you or your troop has brought in, so claiming the actual hours you rang bell is allowed (if you don't count the funds, too.)

**Demonstrations:** You can count demonstrations that you do at nursing homes, community days, events and things of that nature, but if you are doing it to promote a local dog trainer's business, or as one of the entertainers for a group such as Rock and Roll Canines, Classic Canines, or Wonderful World of Dogs, you can not count it unless you can prove that there is some greater purpose that it serves (other than making money for the producers.) You might be doing it for free, but it is ultimately promoting their company or dog food brand.

**HUMANITARIAN: (Helps an individual or small segment of the population) (need at least 10 hours):**

**Animal Assisted Therapy:** You or your troop could help a select segment of the population by visiting a hospital, nursing home, school, disaster site, rehab facility, veteran's home, college or university exam week program or other place where your dogs can interact with the people who might benefit from positive interactions with animals. Your dog should be a certified therapy dog to do this

work. Most certifying agencies require you to keep a log, which will be helpful in keeping track of your hours for the Community Service Badge.

**Search and Rescue:** If your dog has the training, you could be on call with the police departments or within a K9 SAR group, to participate in finding lost persons or crime victims as a Search and Rescue dog (finding people) or Search and Recovery dog (finding remains). Both training drills and actual call outs are usable for humanitarian service hours.

**School Reading Improvement Programs:** If your dog performs as part of reading program you can count it here. It could be counted as community service, but really only a select group of the community, the readers themselves are benefiting from this interaction.

**Meals On Wheels:** Some troops participate in collecting donations to be delivered to the recipients of the meals on wheels programs in the community. These packets are for the PETS of the MOW recipients, because they often can't get out to purchase Christmas presents for their pets, and often give their pet the only thing they can: Their own meal. If your dog is with you during the collection of the goods and the delivery of the packages to the collection point, you can count this, even if your dog is not there the day your group packages up the goodies.

**Canine Blood Donor:** This is a needed and worthwhile program, in which certain dogs may give blood to help other canines that have experienced a traumatic injury. Not all vets offer this service and only larger dogs may be donors. Ask your vet how your dog can get involved if this category interests you.

When trying to distinguish whether something is civic involvement or humanitarian service ask yourself if it is benefiting the community as a whole or just one person/small portion of the community. If a local non-profit petting zoo's sheep get out, and you take your Border Collie over there to round them up in the countryside and bring them back safely to the zoo, that would be humanitarian. If the entire community benefits (such as from a cleaner community park or tax dollars saved) then that is civic.

As always, you can only count volunteer hours, can only count them in one category and your dog must accompany you on all community service work that you count.