



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Hours logged for Community Service are cumulative. Hours logged for levels 1 & 2 count towards the level 3 badge. Fundraising is also cumulative. For each subsequent level, the handler must submit logs that clearly outline activities and events for previous levels.
- If the dog meets the requirements, the dog may earn the level 2 & 3 badges without submitting for the level 1 badge.
- Handlers with multiple dogs must meet the requirements with each dog separately, even if more than 1 dog attends an event or participates in the same fundraising activities. Dogs may be 'switched out' during an event so that more than one dog can get credit for part of the event or activity. If a dog is switched out during an event, he must be removed from the activity by being crated in a car, returned to the home, etc.
- For any event or activity, the dog may take credit for time or for dollars raised, but not both.
- As applicable, activities and fundraising counted towards Community Service badges 1, 2 & 3 may also be counted towards other more specific service-related badges. Handler must refer to the instructions for logging time/fundraising for each of those badges.

FUNDRAISING:

The dog must actively participate in all fundraising activities and efforts. He might collect money from people as offered and place it in a bucket or basket or he might hold the basket and allow people to put money into it. The dog may wear a "donate" vest with pockets to hold the money collected or he might perform tricks or give kisses for donations. The possibilities for how a dog participates in fundraising are limited only by the handler's imagination. Photos from events where the dog participates are not required, but we encourage including photos when the logs are submitted for evaluation. Photos we receive may be used on the DSA web site with the handler's permission.

Groups that qualify for fundraising donations must be qualified non-profit organizations. This would include DSA, local shelters, rescue groups. Please note that a specific portion of the funds raised must be for DSA and should be sent with the badge submission as a donation.

Funds raised may also be in support of search and rescue organizations, fire departments and police departments when earmarked for equipment like bullet proof vests or pet oxygen masks. Money may also support pet food and toys provided for the pets of meals on wheels program recipients.

Hours spent collecting donations can't also be counted in other categories. You may count the hours OR the dollars raised, but not both. Hours cannot be counted twice even if the activity would fall in multiple categories. Acceptable events are walk-a-thons, 5k races, booth work, bell ringing, etc.



Acceptable charities are not-profit organizations which educate or benefit humans and/or animals, EXCLUDING groups like HSUS, PETA and ALF or any other extremist animal rights activist groups whose activities DSA does not support. Groups such as breed rescue, local humane societies, shelters, service dog training organizations like PAWS or Leader Dogs, the American Cancer Society are all acceptable. If there is any question as to whether a group is acceptable or not the handler should ask before participating in the activity by following the process outlined [here](#).

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Public Education includes any activity where information that benefits DSA, dogs in general and/or the relationship between dogs and humans is disseminated to the public. Troop meetings do not qualify unless a special event that is open to the public is included. In this case the event must be advertised as public so that people know they are welcome and must include individuals who are not troop members or members of DSA.

Speaking engagements such as presentations to schools, Boy or Girl Scout troops, local business groups or local dog clubs are good opportunities to educate the public. Topics might include DSA's mission of promoting the human/canine bond, responsible dog ownership, bite prevention, positive training, or the importance of socializing, training, neutering and containing dogs. Presentations about activities that benefit humans and dogs like, Disaster Preparedness, Travel Safety or Canine First Aid are appropriate for speaking engagements. Discussions about activities that are fun for people and dogs together (like almost any of our badges) are also good choices. The dog MUST participate in the presentation by demonstrating, etc.

Educational booths at pet fairs or other dog activities are also great opportunities for public education. To qualify the event must include distributing helpful information appropriate to the theme of the event and one-on-one education. Credit for booths is allowed if the booth supports DSA, a rescue organization or another non-profit organization. Booths for a for-profit organization like a dog training school or where a product is being marketed or sold may not be counted. The dog MUST participate and interact with the public in some way.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:

Civic involvement includes activities that help the community. This is a broad category that could include many types of activities. Some activities that qualify are outlined below. Questions regarding any activity can be asked using the process described [here](#).

- Community Clean Up – This can be done as a community project, a troop project or on an individual basis. The dog must help in some way by pulling a wagon, helping to retrieve plastic bottles or trash, or by finding things that need to be picked up.
- Parades – Dog Scout troops are often welcome additions to local parades. Some parades allow individuals to participate as well and this is a great way to show off a dog in a Dog Scout uniform. Handing out DSA literature or rolls of poop bags with troop business cards attached is encouraged by DSA if it is allowed by parade organizers. Having the dog pull a wagon filled with inexpensive toys that are handed out to people attending the parade with their own dogs is



another great way to get some additional visibility for DSA, especially if a business card or some other information about DSA is attached. Many communities have parades for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as for some local festivals. Contact local community, township or government offices to find out about parades in your area and any requirements they may have for participating.

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.



Dog Scouts of America
Logging Activities

Community Service
All Levels