



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

Parkour 2

PURPOSE: Parkour is an activity enjoyed by humans and canines alike as it serves to make walks more active and interesting and helps to improve the bond between the two members of the team. In order to properly do Parkour, the human partner must be focused on the environment and the dog (and not, for example, a phone) and the dog naturally benefits from this extra attention. While simple Parkour moves are excellent for the cognition of a senior dog, the elements of the Parkour 2 badge may not be at all appropriate.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: Dog must have already have earned the Parkour 1 badge. For Parkour 2, the dog must have been trained in different environments including grassy, wooded, urban and playground. All behaviors must be performed confidently, with little hesitation even when challenged with unfamiliar obstacles.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler must be able to determine if the required behaviors for Parkour 2 are appropriate for their dog based on age, physical condition and/or temperament, keeping in mind that not all badges are appropriate for all dogs. The handler must demonstrate a solid understanding of the safety measures needed for Parkour. It's not enough for the handler to be able to recite proper safety protocols, these must be clearly demonstrated throughout the evaluation process, including being able to identify when the harness should be on the dog and when it might hinder the dog's movement on required behaviors. At some point during the evaluation process, the handler must identify where spotting is required on the mounting of an obstacle rather than the dismount. This should happen organically rather than being staged as the obstacles used for Parkour 2 must be challenging.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: A good fitting, non-restrictive harness is required for Parkour 2, though it does not need to be worn for every behavior requirement. The handler should have a leash of no more than 6 feet available at all times. The leash is not necessarily always used, and at some points may be more of a hindrance, with the safety of the dog is better served by the handler taking hold of the harness.

The handler should not bring any equipment to the evaluation. The required behaviors must be demonstrated confidentially on unfamiliar obstacles. If there are specific things needed to ensure that appropriate obstacles exist in the environment, the evaluator will provide those.

PROCESS: Parkour 2 is generally evaluated in multiple locations to demonstrate that the dog is comfortable in and has been trained in different environments. Handlers must be able to identify different obstacles in the environment that the dog could interact with to demonstrate the required behaviors. The evaluator will direct behaviors where an appropriate obstacle is not available in the environment using equipment they provide.

ALLOWED:

- Treating the dog after the behavior
- Removing the dog's harness

NOT ALLOWED:

- Luring
- Lack of confidence (dog)
- Lack of knowledge (handler) as to when and when not to use the harness and/or leash
- Any behavior or action that defies safety protocols or demonstrates the handler's unwillingness to follow them