

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere

Volume 27 Issue 2 June/July 2024

Sunshine Gumbin launches
into dock diving
this summer



Notes from National

New Dog Scouts P2

DSA Paw-lympics P3

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& Troop Talk
P6**

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
September 1

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

New Dog Scouts! Congratulations!

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

It's time to welcome additional members to the Dog Scout Class of 2024. Do you remember how excited and proud you were when your dog earned his DSA title? That's what these handlers are feeling now so please join me in celebrating their accomplishments! It will be exciting to follow their DSA journey and see where they take it.



Cassie Boal
Kennydale, TX
Troop 119



Izar Dahms
Custer, WI
Troop 243



Maggie Weatherly
Claremore, OK
Troop 247



Nola Jade Stone
Covington, LA



Tango Paxson
Arlington, TX
Troop 119



Tosh Tucker
North Richland Hills, TX
Troop 119

DSA Paw-lympics

Another Successful Virtual Event!

Thank you to all who made DSA's **Paw-lympics** a success, from the workhorse team who creates and implements these fundraisers—Lonnie Olson, Sally Hoyle, Melissa Matteson, Shirley Conley, and Martha Thierry, to the attendees who post their videos and encourage positive participation.

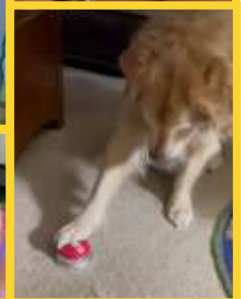
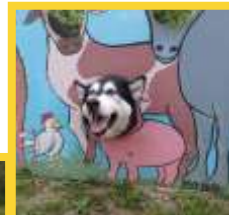
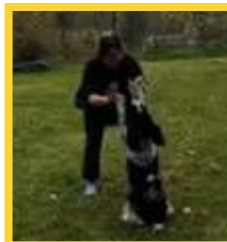
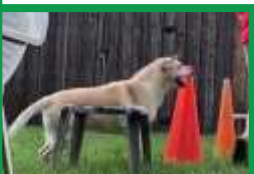
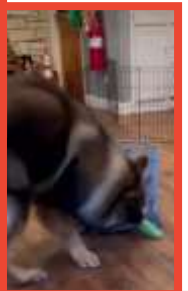
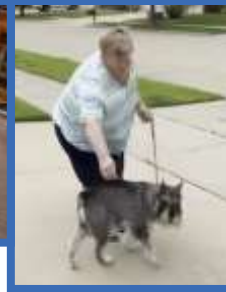
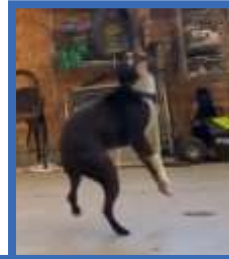
We had 58 humans with 94 dogs participating in the 5 available categories. At least one activity for each category was posted weekly and participants posted video of their dogs demonstrating the requested behaviors. The following rocker patches were earned based on the number of demonstration videos within a category posted for the dog.

Parkour			Targeting			Push N Pull			Tricky Weaves			Dressage		
Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze
33	8	8	34	7	7	36	2	2	17	7	7	38	5	5

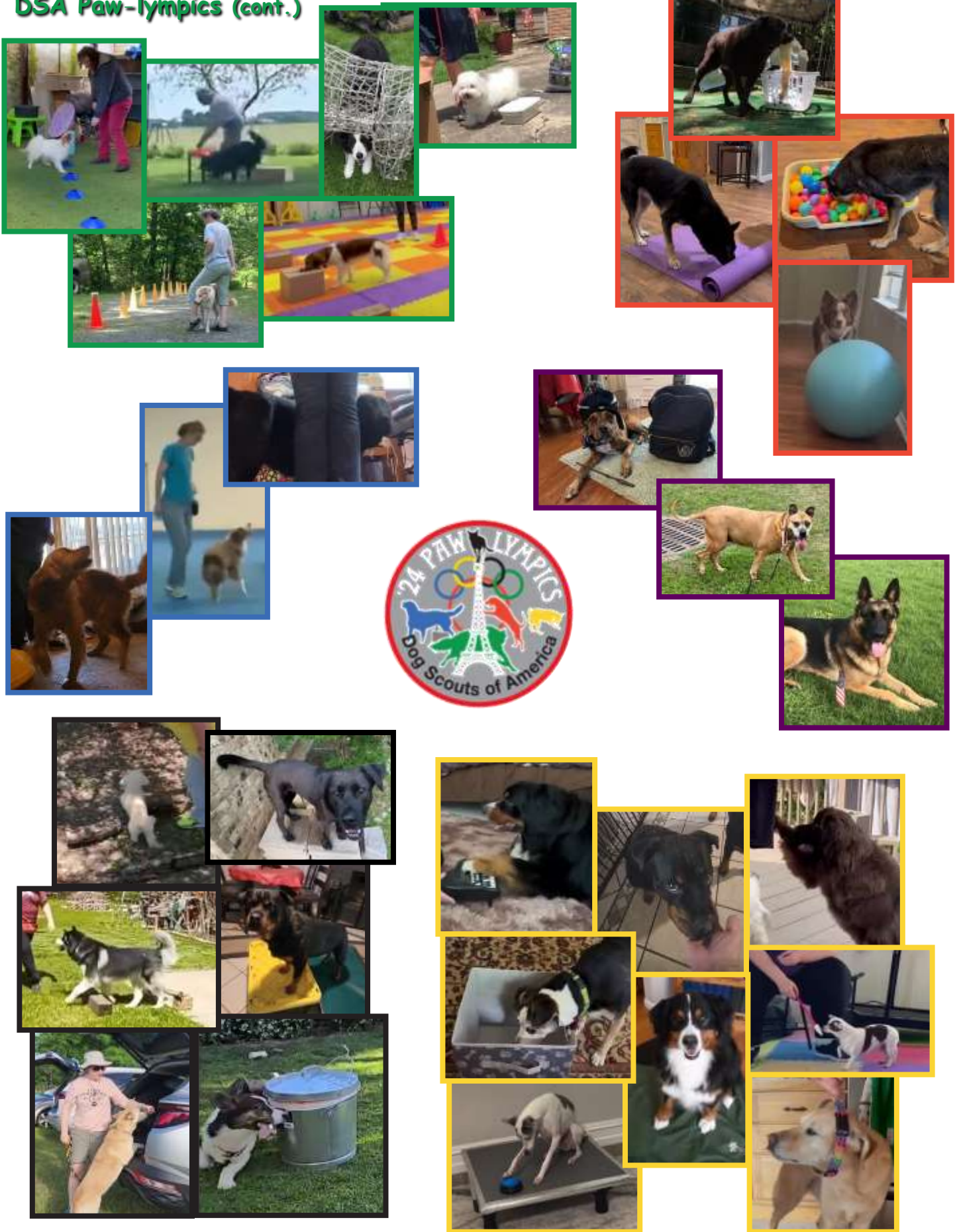
Congratulations to everyone who achieved a Bronze, Silver, or Gold rocker patch in one or more categories, and thank you to all our participants for supporting DSA.



DSA Paw-lympics (cont.)



DSA Paw-lympics (cont.)



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales



Troop 119—TX ~ Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Our troop spring meetings have gotten derailed a bit due to the crazy, unpredictable Texas weather! We had a barn hunt meeting scheduled (again!) for April. It had been rescheduled twice before – once due to flooding and once due to excessive heat. And the rains and flooding got us again in April. So, it turns out third time's not the charm after all. Hopefully, fourth time will be the charm when the weather cools off again eventually.



In May we had a great Dog Scout Class meeting. We talked all about Dog Scouts, how to be good members of society, why we train The Dog Scout Way and discussed all the elements of the Dog Scout test; we now have SIX new Dog Scouts!



Cassie Boal, DSA



Tango Paxson, DSA



Knox Spencer, DSA



Tosh Tucker-Roberts, DSA



Chief Waits, DSA



Alex Luttrell, DSA

Cassie, DSA, proud parents are Cheryl & Dennis Boal,
Tango, DSA, proud mom is Becky Paxson,
Knox, DSA, proud mom is Jill Spencer,
Tosh, DSA, proud moms are Kathy Tucker & Becky Roberts,
Chief, DSA, proud parents are Susan & Tom Waits,
Alex, DSA, proud mom is JoLynn Luttrell.

Congratulations to all of our new Scouts!

In June we'll be working on the Manners merit badge and we'll be working indoors and out of the summer heat!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Fran Beezley

February

Troop 149 held their first meeting of the year in February.

After a short walk around Wehner Park, the troop met inside Shrewsbury City Center for some games. The dogs had fun playing our own version of the Super Bowl, pushing a ball down the “field” to knock over the pins and score a touchdown! Also, treats were hidden in a towel that had to be unrolled and under cups. Everyone had a good time, and we were happy to be inside and out of the cold.



March

While the dogs hiked in the park the Easter Bunny made a stop and left some eggs for the dogs to hunt. They were filled with yummy treats; that is always fun for them.

Then we went inside and played a bit of basketball (with a goal instead of a basket) to celebrate March Madness.

Everyone had a rousing good time and went home tired and ready to sleep off all the excitement.



Troop 149—MO (cont.)

April

True to the “April Showers” adage, the weather was not very good with rain and possible storms, so a few hardy soles gathered for a quick walk around Des Peres Park. Dogs didn’t seem to mind at all and we managed to get our walk in between showers.



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Annual Doggie Olympics Meet Up

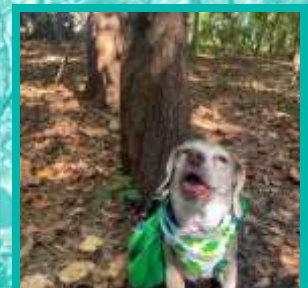
On Saturday, April 13th, our troop's annual Dog Scout Olympics took place at Markham Park. Our troop looks forward to this event each year as it is a fun time for everyone to interact with fellow troop members and play games with their Dog Scouts. There was a game for everyone, which made for an enjoyable time by all participants; plus, we celebrated Henry's birthday and welcomed our newest member, Tess. Training should always be a game! We all took the challenge to find a trick for our dogs to practice so they can perform it at one of our future events.



Letterboxing and Hiking at Markham

On Sunday, May 18th, several of us met up at Markham Park in Sunrise, FL to find a letterbox at the Fox Observatory near the park manager's office. This letterbox was deep in the woods, and it wasn't easy to get to, but it was worth it once it was found. It was a beautiful astronomy stamp. We took away some lessons from this adventure. The biggest ones are never give up and you can never be too careful in the woods or anywhere!

<https://www.atlasquest.com/boxes/clue/index.php?boxId=364813>.





Troop 183—FL ~ Paws Pack 183

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



Troop 183 returned to Barn Hunt in March. Hopefully next time we do Barn Hunt, the videographer (AKA me!) will read the submission requirements before the activity so we can capture all the requirements for Marvin's merit badge!

In April Carly graciously allowed Tachi into her pool for a swim—unfortunately no one was clear of the splash-zone so no photos or video were taken.

The Paw-lympics activities have been fun. We tried a few of them in April and continued with them in May. Also in May we had a relaxing morning on the pontoon boat then docked for lunch before heading back.

Tachi is pleased that Grandma (Evelyn) has started participating in some of our troop meetings as he now has more opportunities to earn treats while I watch and help other members.





Troop 188—CT ~ DSA Troop 188

Michelle Lake—Co-Leader

Congratulations to our Fit Dog 1 graduates! Thunder, Winslow, Telly and Breeze. Not pictured was our wonderful demo dog Sara.

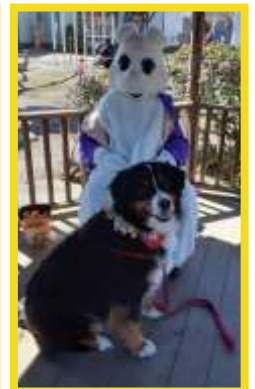
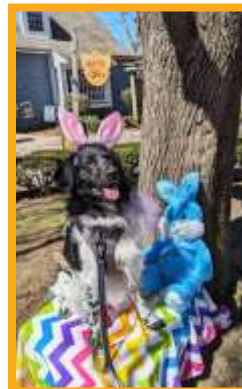


Many from our troop won a local St Patrick's Day photo contest!

Congratulations to Julianne, Savannah and their combined pack!



After weekends of rainy days, our Easter Bonnet contest and parade were held on a gorgeous sunny day. Profits from the event went to local pet pantries.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Team Breeze finished 8th in Senior Open at the 2024 Westminster Dock Diving competition. Way to go!



Congratulations to member Savannah on becoming a Trick Dog Evaluator with Do More With Your Dog!



Thunder (with Michelle) passed her AKC Temperament Test – Badge paperwork in process!



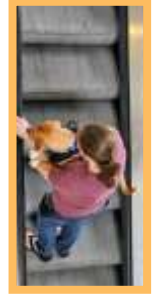
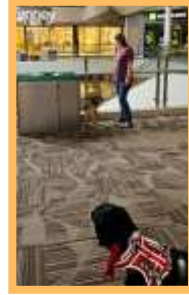
Part of Memorial Day was spent walking among some local memorials.

MEMORIAL DAY

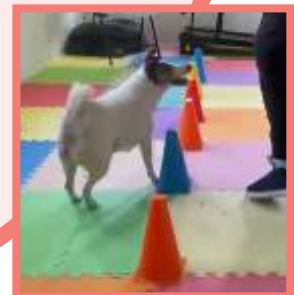


Troop 188—CT (cont.)

CGCU skills were worked on during a walk at a local mall including elevators, escalators, meet and greets and varied floor surfaces.



Several members have been working in Paw-lympics. We've been learning some new concepts and behaviors and re-learning some others.





Troop 217—MI ~ The Motor City K9's

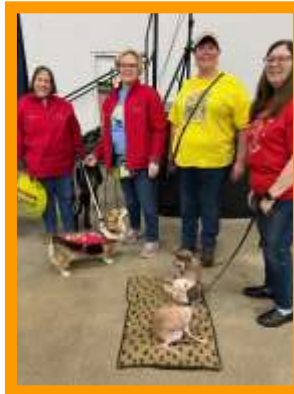
Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has had fun and exciting activities to keep us busy the past few months, several of these were quite unique or new to us. We started in March by joining Troop 101 for the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is always a fun parade with friends and as usual, there was plenty of green to go around. Of course the crowd loved seeing and petting all the dogs!

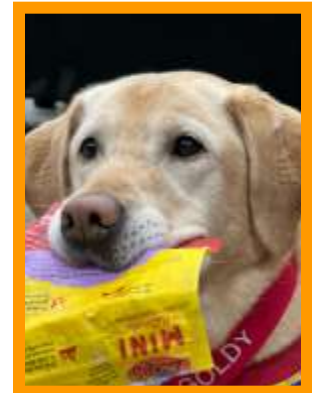


Next up was the Mid-Michigan Pet Expo which is a big 3-day event with lots of vendors plus dock diving and flyball. This is the first time we have done this event and we really enjoyed meeting and talking with all the attendees. We were thrilled to have some members of Troop 101 join us for this event as the event location is actually the demarcation line between our two troops. We learned a lot about doing a large event like this but we had a great time and are already making plans for our next one.

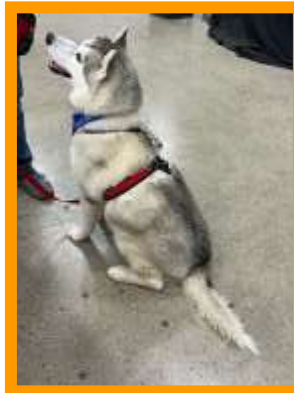
Jaxson with mom Diane Baughman won a prize in the trick contest at the Pet Expo for demonstrating his rolling out his bed trick.



When it came time for the pet lookalike contest, no one could even come close to Matty and his mom Cheryl Ashford! Can you tell which one is which? Well, I guess Matty's cape gives it away because Cheryl doesn't have any badges.

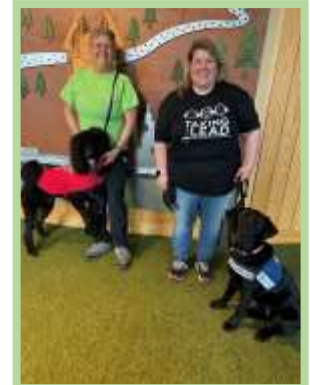


Some of our dogs were in this kind of environment for the first time and they all did great, even with a lot of noise and commotion in the building.



Troop 217—MI (cont.)

We did something very unique when we visited the MI Department of Natural Resources Adventure Center in Detroit. Dogs are normally not allowed in this building, but we were allowed to come inside for a few hours along with a group of Leader Dog puppies. The dogs were exposed to all kinds of things that they may not have seen before. The DNR Center is set up for children to learn all about the natural resources we have in Michigan so there are fun things to see and climb on. There were waterfalls, trees and logs to climb on, a watch tower, an airplane and even a huge swinging bridge! The dogs all had a great time and it was fun to interact with the Leader Dog puppies. I think the two groups learned a lot from each other and we hope to do this again.



Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Several of us partnered with members of Troop 101 to host a huge letterboxing event in May. This was a follow up to the event we did two years ago, the Power of Pawsitivity.

We had about 150 hand carved stamps that we placed for the event on about 8 different trails. It was a really hot weekend, but had a great time nonetheless. It's fun to see old letterboxing friends at this kind of event and meet new ones too.

The power of Pawsitivity 3.0 is already in its infancy and will likely take place in 2026.

We've had a couple of great hikes in the past few months where we sought opportunities to practice our parkour skills. All of our hikes took place in parks where we hadn't hiked before and that helps keep our adventures interesting.

One of our hikes was in an urban area where the dogs enjoyed visiting the Three Dog Bakery. Several more members completed their Parkour 1 badge between our hikes and regularly scheduled Zoom meetings.

Everybody is getting ready for Parkour 2!



We have some pretty awesome plans for upcoming activities, including the big one, **summer camp** in St. Helen, MI! Many of our members are attending and we can't wait to meet all the new people who are coming. A couple of us have been spending time on the camp property in the past couple of months helping to get camp spruced up and ready for all the people and dogs attending. We'll have a lot to update you on in the next newsletter with news of things that happen at camp and the other fun stuff we have planned.



Troop 247—OK ~ Green Country Dog Scouts

Barbara Foy—Troop Leader

We are happy to announce that a new Dog Scout Troop has formed in Oklahoma: Green Country Dog Scouts, Troop 247. Our Troop services the Tulsa area and the northeastern part of OK, but is open to anyone that would like to be a part of a Troop in OK.

Our Troop's first meeting was a Meet & Greet held in Owasso on March 2, 2024 and was attended by fifteen people. Troop Leader, Barb Foy (*pictured top right*) and Troop Cheerleader/Coordinator, Clare Miller (*pictured right*), spent about an hour answering questions, showing Dog Scout capes with badges, crafts made at camp and encouraging those attending to learn more about DSA by visiting the website. We were very pleased that Sharon Gruetzmacher, Troop 150 Leader, made the two hour trip from her home base in Arkansas to support us and share her knowledge and experience with us.

The second part of the meeting was a social hour with food and games. One of the planned games morphed into a scentwork demonstration given by four of the attendees that compete in nosework. Everyone enjoyed the demo, and an interest was sparked in pursuing badges in the future.

Our second (April 6) and third (May 4) meetings were spent learning about the mission, values, and vision of DSA along with the Dog Scout Laws. Games that help build skills were played at both meetings. Everyone's favorite game was led by Troop member Lyn Johnson DVM, a long time positive reinforcement trainer, instructor and competitor in many dog sports. The game was a variation of Mine or Yours, a game found in Terry Ryan's book, *Gamify Your Dog Training*.



Troop 247 would like to thank our "Troop Mascot", Tilly the Cat, brave companion of Clare Miller, who made it possible for five dogs to check off their animal "leave it" and a sixth dog that already had his Dog Scout title to reinforce this skill.

Troop 247 is also very happy and excited to announce that one of our members and his dog has earned their Dog Scout title. Brian Weatherly and his seven-year-old Border Collie, Maggie, met all requirements with flying colors. We congratulate them heartily.



Green Country Dog Scouts usually meets on the first Saturday of the month in Owasso, near Tulsa. We can be reached at dsatrop247@gmail.com.

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Instagram: instagram.com/dogscoutsofamerica/

Youtube: Dog Scouts of America - YouTube

#dogscoutsofamerica

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

President: Sally Hoyle — president@dogscouts.org

(Also Mini-Camp Mentor, Merit Badge Submission Process)

Dog Scout Camp (MI): Lonnie Olson — DogScoutCamp@gmail.com

(Also for Dog Scout Calendar, **Sparky's Camp Store**, Camp Scholarships)

Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

(Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration: troops@dogscouts.org

(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Evaluator Certification: troops@dogscouts.org

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Titles/Competition Registration Number: Kristie Iwamoto — titles@dogscouts.org

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — president@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org

(Also for newsletter distribution)