

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 3 September/October 2024



Watching dogs find a target odor can raise our awareness of their body language and problem solving skills

Periodic Test!	P2
Are You Ready to Trot and Gobble?	P3
New Dog Scouts	P4
Scout Scoop & Troop Talk	P5
Rainbow Bridge	P26

Deadline: for the next newsletter is
December 1

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

Periodic Test!

Lonnie Olson

From time to time, I like to give the dogs their periodic quiz. This means that I take one dog alone into a different location (one where we don't usually train), and quiz the dog on the behaviors that I have printed out on a "report card." This morning I used my bedroom, and more specifically, the bed (for all but the walking or positioning in relation to my body cues).

The quiz is to measure the dog's stimulus control and fluency with verbal cues (or the LACK thereof). I give scores of 1 to 5 in response to cues given in a normal tone of voice, while remaining perfectly still and avoiding body or eye cues. I remain still and wait for a response. If they perform the desired behavior on the first cue, they get a 5. If they're slow, it might be a 5- (five minus). Sometimes it takes a repeat of the cue before they resign themselves to the fact that I do indeed expect them to do this in a strange location. If it takes more than a few cues/prompts to jolt their memory, I assess that they do NOT have an understanding of the cue. Or at least not in the context of this new environment. It means I have to do a better job at training in different locations!

The rules for Stimulus control are:

1. Dog responds correctly each time you cue the behavior.
2. Dog does NOT offer the behavior without the cue.
3. Dog doesn't offer that behavior in response to a different cue.
4. Dog does not offer a different response to the cue you gave.

I say it is a quiz for the dog, but what I'm really testing is the job I've done as their trainer. I can't blame the dog for insufficient training! Every now and then, we should all test the skills that we THINK we have taught our dogs, to see if we did a good job or not. We may have taught them to be totally dependent on body language or context.

I used to challenge my obedience students to set their dog up for a regulation Retrieve on the Flat, tell the dog to stay, then, while facing forward, throw the dumbbell backwards (over your shoulder), cue "Fetch," and see what your dog does. Does he THINK it through, or does he automatically run out 20 feet in front of you, expecting to find the dumbbell there?

If your dog is lying down, try cueing him to lie down, and see if he assumes you meant something else, because he's already lying down.

I suggest you try the quiz. It will open your eyes to how well you have done at training your dog. Have fun! And Post Pictures on our [All Troop Training Group](#) on Facebook.

OFF	5
SIT	5-
PLACE	5
CROSS PAWS	-2 NR
COM'ERE	5-
WAVE	4
WIPE NOSE	5-
SAY MAMA	4
DOWN	5
CHIN	5
SHAKE IT	5-
SMACK RT	5-
SMACK LFT	5-
GET UNDER	5
COME	5
GET PICK	2
RU SLEEPY	4
TAKE (GET)	5
HOLD	5
PUT BUCKET	5-
SCORE	144/175
GO TO HEEL	5-
TOUCH	5
PRAY	-5 NR
PAINT	2- TRIED CHIN
LEAVE IT	5
HI HO SILVER	2- HAD TO LURE
FLY	REFUSED IN OFFICE
SPIN	5-
TWIRL	5-
STAND	5-
BRACE	5
STAY	5
GO THRU DOOR	5
REDIRECT AFTER	5-
WATCH	5
SCORE	144/175

Are you ready to Trot and Gobble



We're just beginning to feel a suggestion of Fall in the air which means Sparky's Turkey Trot and 5-Mile Gobbler are just around the corner!

Sparky's Turkey Trot is a virtual race that you can walk, run, or bike with your dog(s) on your own time, during the week of Thanksgiving. Human participants will receive a medal for supporting this great cause!

The **FIVE Mile Gobbler** is a virtual five-mile run, walk, or bike, (or any combination of those) that you complete with your dog(s) on your own time during the month of December. Your dog(s) will be rewarded with a special Mile Gobbler patch to show off his/her hard work (repeat gobblers will receive a rocker patch noting the year to add to their previously received patch, and additional patches can be ordered for individuals participating with multiple dogs).

These virtual events are completed "on your honor", there is no need to send in a mileage log to receive the participation awards and miles do not need to be completed on the same day.

ANYONE can participate (DSA membership is not required) —these events are great family and Scouting fun and allow you, no matter which part of the world you're in, the convenience of participating according to your own schedule; that means you could walk at lunchtime or after work, on the weekend, or even on Thanksgiving day; it could be just you and your dog or you can make plans to enjoy this time with others. You might find a new trail, a park, a dog-friendly beach, head downtown, plan a route that includes stopping 1/2 way at a dog friendly restaurant, or just walk your neighborhood.

Turkey Trot: \$25 per person
5-Mile Gobbler: \$25 for first dog
Trot & Gobbler Combo: \$40
(\$10 discount if you sign up for the combo)

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**](#)

Please pay attention to your cart selection as no refunds are available for these fundraising events.



New Dog Scouts! Congratulations!

By Sally Hoyle, DSA President

The Dog Scout Class of 2024 continues to grow as we move into autumn.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of these dogs and their handlers. They have achieved something special in earning the Dog Scout title and are just beginning their DSA journeys.

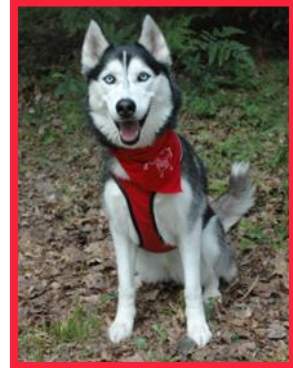
It's so exciting to see more very special dogs achieving the rank of Dog Scout!



Cayenne Matteson
Beaver Creek, OH



Chief Waits
Troop 119
N. Richland Hills, TX



Kaya Rand
Blue Bell, PA



Kaylee Johnson
Troop 247
Bartlesville, OK



Kiley Miller
Troop 247
Tulsa, OK



Knox Spencer
Troop 119
Denison, TX



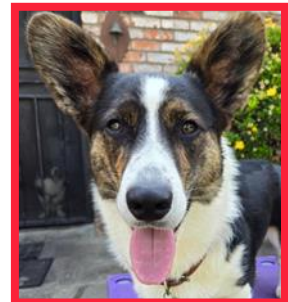
Ranger Foy
Troop 247
Owasso, OK



Shadow Warner
Troop 217
Harrison Twp, MI



Sophie Damm
MaKees Rocks, PA



Tegan Lane
Troop 198
Sunnyvale, CA

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales



Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trail Blazers

Fay Reid—Troop Leader

Goldy & Booker visited with a local Cadette Girl Scout troop to discuss how dogs can help people. They gave several demonstrations including finding a person.



At our March meeting we worked on parts of the Manners badge going to place and greeting a friendly stranger.



Dogs were introduced to platforms and we discussed what we could use them for.

We reviewed and worked on some of the Rally FrEe signs.

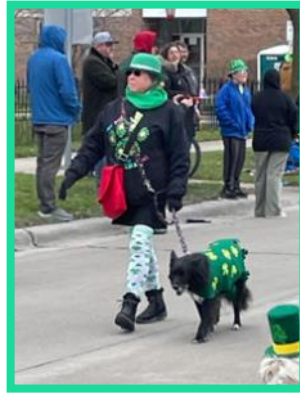


The Easter bunny left behind some scented eggs so we had an egg hunt with birch.

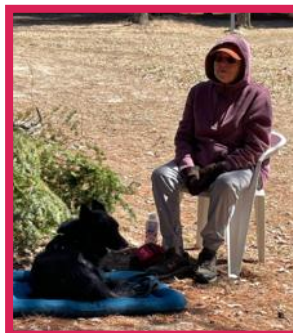
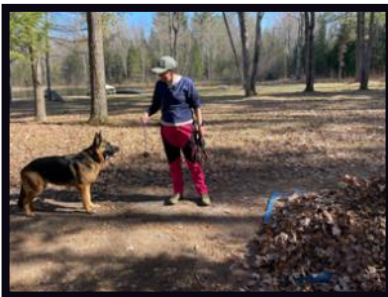


Troop 101—MI (cont.)

Happy St. Patty's Day from Troop 101 & 217 as they braved the cold to celebrate the Luck of the Irish in the Bay City Parade. Due to the 30 degree temperatures there were not as many people along the route as normal but the dogs as always charmed everyone bringing smiles to children and adults alike on the 1.8 mile trek down Center Avenue. As one little boy pointed out Jax was lucky, he was carrying all the money in his cart with his pot of gold. Caper demonstrated she was Lonnie's pot of gold by wearing the rainbow. Katie and Booker enjoyed visiting children along the route. Everyone loved watching Kismet drive the purple buggy in the parade. Matty & Marley brought the poodle power to Bay City.



In April members helped clean up the MI camp, getting it ready for another year, and braved the cold to continue working on the manners badge outside. We continue to get ready for the Power of Pawsitivity 2.0 Caped Crusaders letterboxing event we were sponsoring.

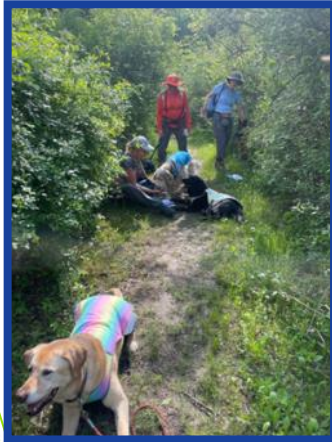
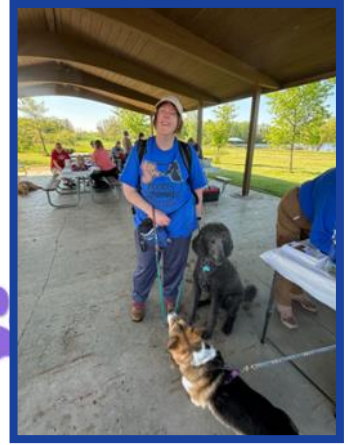


Members also had a booth for the Great Lakes Bay Animal Society to support local Fast & Furriest K9 Dog run benefiting the human and dog shelters of domestic violence.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

We held our 2nd Power of Pawsitivity letterboxing event at Sleepy Hollow State Park in Laingsburg, MI to raise funds and food for three shelters. Animal Placement Bureau in Lansing, New Hope Pet Rescue of Michigan, Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter



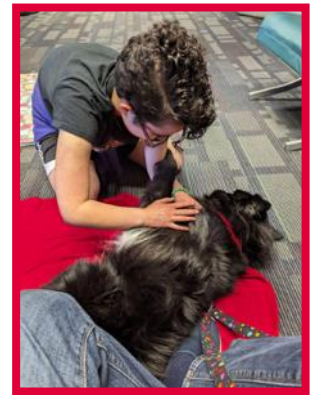
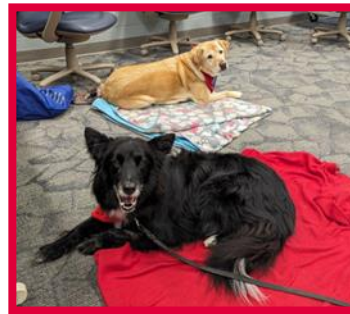
Troop 101—MI (cont.)



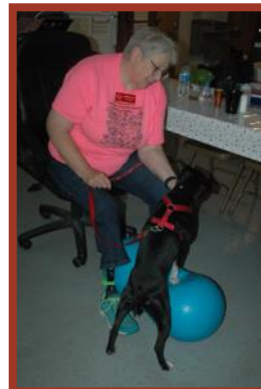
May was time to clean out our houses of unused items to put in the Troop garage sale. We raised \$1,011.25 for DSA; the dogs collected money and gave lov'in to people who needed it. After the rain stopped the pool came out for them to enjoy in the heat.



Booker & Goldy helping Bullock Creek High School students getting thru their final exams.



July members attended the MI Camp with our little bit of Paris. Working on Search & Rescue, Musical Freestyle, Directional Control, Parkour2, Doga, No contact Agility, Tricks to name a few.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

August bringing the close of summer, Goldy & Jax participated in the Summer reading program giving demonstrations on painting and finding a lost child among the books



The troop worked on Obstacle 3 badge: Tire, Teeter, and Table.

Badges/Titles Earned:

Jax: Letterbox Excellent Title, Clean Up America 1, Clean Up America 2

Molly: Letterbox Excellent Title, Clean Up America 2, Expert Sniffers - Interior

Kyra: Obstacle 3

Booker: Parkour 2, Musical Freestyle, Search & Rescue

Remy: Parkour 2, Letterboxing 1, Travel Safety, K9 Nutrition, Tricks

Goldy: Parkour 2, Musical Freestyle Int. & Advanced, Humane Education

Kismet: Parkour 2, Musical Freestyle, Doga

Scallywag: Parkour 2, Musical Freestyle, Doga

Caper: Parkour 2



Some of our members are actively planning the Fall Flannel Frolic to be held at the MI camp September 27-29. Check out the DSA Website under Mi camps for the registration. It should be a fun event for dogs and human alike.





Troop 119—TX ~ Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

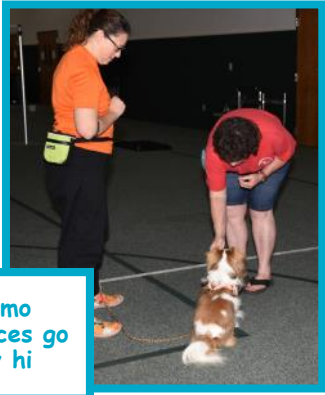
Troop 119 has had a great summer having fun and learning new things!

In June, we met to learn the elements of the Manners merit badge. Troop dogs practiced going to their mats, waiting at the door, going to say hi, getting off furniture when asked and more. The dogs enjoyed learning new skills or brushing up on old favorites. Several dogs were able to check off several behaviors for the badge.



Daisy practices wait at the door

Phoenix practices go to mat



Gizmo practices go say hi

Tina practices getting off of furniture



Paisley demos hand target



Blitzen practices on the mat

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

July brought a Troop favorite: Doggie Summer Olympics! While we have all enjoyed watching the Paris Olympics, our Canine Olympians mastered many of the Olympic sports – with a bit of a twist.

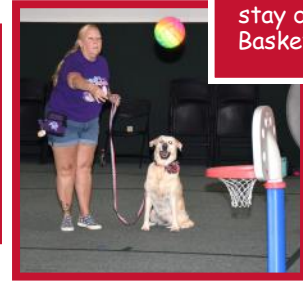
Canine athletes and their loyal trainers competed in five Olympic sports: Gymnastics, Basketball, Weightlifting, Equestrian and Cycling.

For some, the sports presented some whole new challenges. For others, they enjoyed showing off feats they have trained all their lives for! All the dogs worked hard and all were able to make it to the podium. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded during the medals ceremony. All the dogs appeared proud to retrieve their medals to the playing of the national anthem. We feel sure all the Olympians are already training for DSO2028!

Murphy goes for a dumbbell lift in Weightlifting



Rouen holds her stay during the Basketball shot



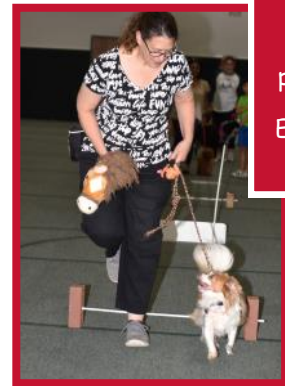
Cassie nails the balance beam in Gymnastics



Melissa & Fergus & pony clear the first Equestrian jump



Donna & Gizmo & pony clear second Equestrian jump



Sucha & Nita race in Cycling



Melissa & Finn go through the rings for Gymnastics



Scott & Panda race to the finish in Cycling



Neil & Kira dribble toward the basket



Tina earns points with dumbbells in weightlifting



Marshal holds his stay while Susan goes for a goal



Casper, proud of his silver medal



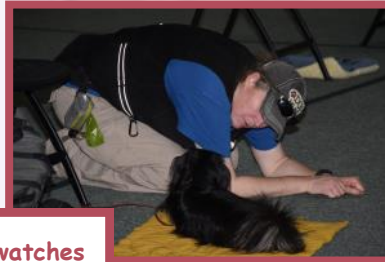
Troop 119—TX (cont.)



Phalen practices her watch



Gibson practices social learning



Alex watches mom's cue



Charlee works on her watch



Belle watching for mom's example



Gizmo watches mom lie down



Kai Anne practices her focus on mom

In August, troop member Traci Betts gave an Intro to the Copy Cat badge as a way to learn about social learning as well as prepare for the badge at mini-camp in November.

After Traci introduced the badge and steps to get there, the dogs practiced on the elements they would need to master. They especially seemed to enjoy seeing their humans do behaviors, too!

We are looking forward to the hot Texas temps cooling down soon and spending more time with our dogs in the great outdoors!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Fran Beezley



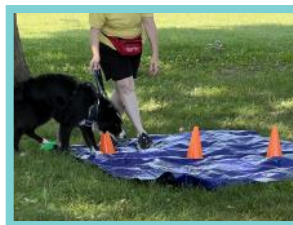
June

In June, we decided to have a picnic in Scheve Park near Mascoutah, Illinois.

Chris arranged to reserve a very nice shelter, and everyone brought food to share.

We were going to start celebrating the upcoming Olympics. In spite of the unseasonably warm weather, a good crowd gathered. We did our versions of hurdles, diving, gymnastics (rings). And, naturally, everyone won a medal and received an Olympic car magnet.

There were more games to play but unfortunately the heat was winning and we decided to postpone the rest for another day.





Troop 150—AR ~ Dog Scout Troop 150 of Arkansas

Sharon Branyan

This year Troop 150 has been working on troop interests and goals established at our January (virtual) planning meeting:

Keeping Dog Scout skills current with a practice at each meeting

Earning the Dog Scout Badge for several member dogs

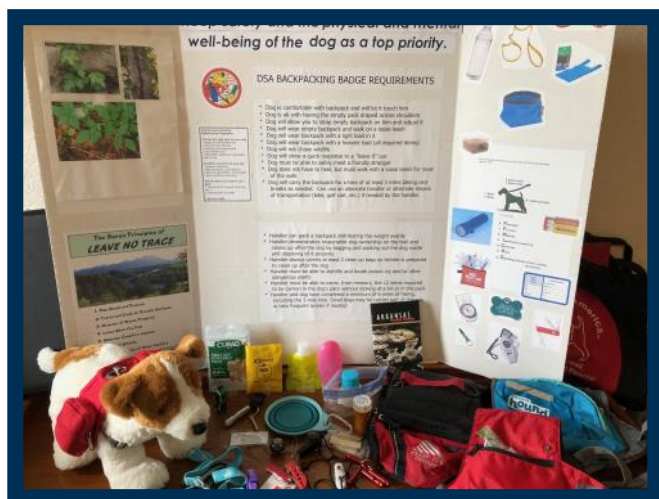
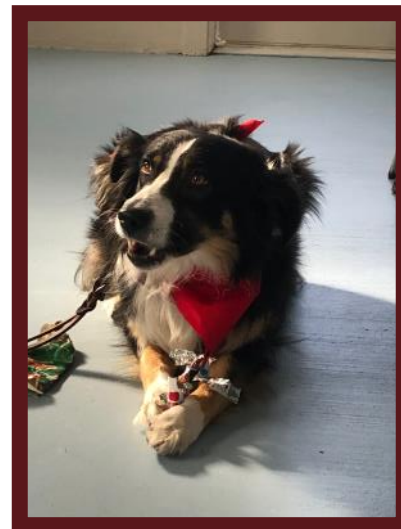
Badge Interests: Musical Freestyle, backpacking, art, band, nosework, letterboxing, carting, and puzzle games to strengthen our dogs' thinking skills.

We are also delighted to be the nearest sister troop to new Troop 247 in Oklahoma which launched in March, and to lend whatever support and assistance we can. Our former Tulsa members Clare Miller, Jane Ruyle, and Barb Foy continue to make the two hour trip to join us when they can, and both troops are benefitting from the exchange of ideas and skills.

We look forward to many joint adventures!

Some meeting highlights:

Kiley Miller passed her Dog Scout test and politely enjoyed a well-deserved treat to celebrate!



Backpacking O&S has been completed by all, just in time for fall hiking season.



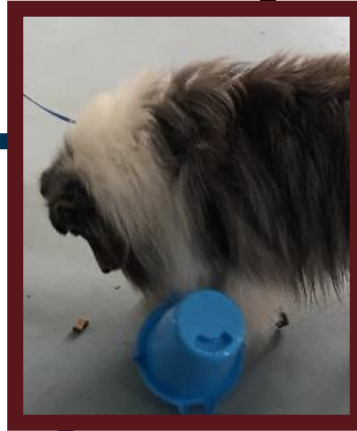
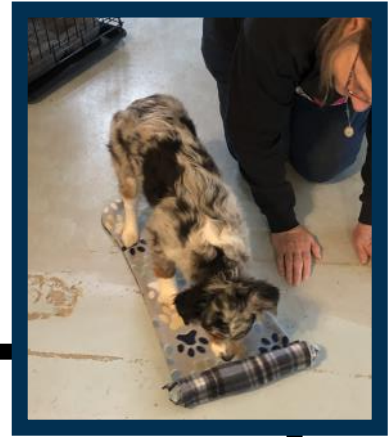
Troop 150—AR (cont.)

We've been playing various "Cover Games" or more accurately, "Uncovering Games" for cognition training.

We started last December with "Unrolling the treats", which puppy Ranger figured out right away.

We have progressed to less flexible covers like cups, buckets and baskets.

Below: Ricky watches while Smoky shows how it's done.



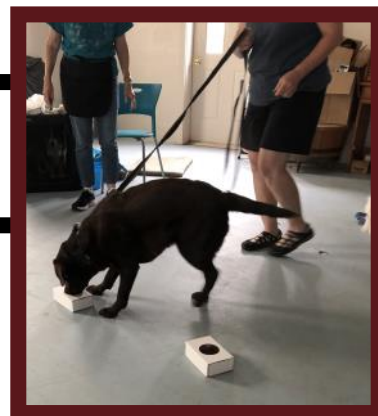
Ruby observes that treats may also come in baskets.



Meanwhile Dirk goes "undercover" with a hat trick.



After a scent detection presentation by Clare and Kiley, Lettie Sue demonstrates her nose work skills.



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

My Adventure K-9 Challenge

This summer two of Troop members Shari and her dog Penny along with her friend Roxanna and her two pups Lucy & Henry registered for the ["My Adventure Challenge."](#)

The object of the challenge is to hike 65 miles in 90 days with your furry companion. These hikes must be taken on marked trails or within a park. Although you can repeat trails. Shari and Penny have already visited 8 different parks and have enjoyed being out in nature. Roxanna, Lucy and Henry have also taken advantage of all the local parks in the area walking and spending time together. Both members love spending time with their pups and it sure shows from all the pictures they post and share with our Troop and their friends. The Adventure Challenge has been a lot of fun, a great way to get exercise, and explore the wonderful parks we have in the area. Shari and Roxanna are not sure if they will complete the challenge, but they are having a great time trying.



Annual July 4 Armageddon Walk

Our traditional July 4 "Pre-Armageddon/wear out our dogs" hike was attended by Dog Scout River and Cadet Scouts Penny, Luna, and Aurora at Tree Tops Park. For any of the northern DSA Troops that may feel a twinge of jealousy about our winter activities, this activity certainly should dissuade anyone from moving to Florida. Despite bug spray precautions, handlers Dawn, Shari, Patricia, and Emily were greeted on the trail with our dogs by at least twenty thousand mosquitoes. Patricia and Emily had the wisdom to leave the trail with their dogs before they became part of the buffet. Shari and Dawn did a short, fast walk through the trails of the park waiving off these hungry, vicious pests from our dogs and our bodies with minimal success. Lessons were learned and everyone had a good attitude., but more consideration will be given to our choice of park next year.



Carrie B Park

On July 14, Troop 157 cruised with Carrie B Paddle Boat on the New River and Intracoastal Waterway. This is our third year enjoying the Carrie B's dog friendly policy and being treated like rock stars by the crew. Christine and Clover, Theresa and Ripley, and Dawn (without River) participated in the event. Despite the heat advisory, we enjoyed the tour, the sights, and the pirate jokes from EJ, our narrator. We thanked everyone for their amazing hospitality and kindness and even got some free koozies for our social media likes.

Troop 177—IN ~ Indy Dog Scouts

Robin Porter

Troop #177 met on July 13 at the Art & Nature Park next to Newfields (Indianapolis Art Museum).

In addition to a nice 1.25 mile trail around a lake and along the canal, they have many outdoor art installations, many are intended to be climbed on and in!

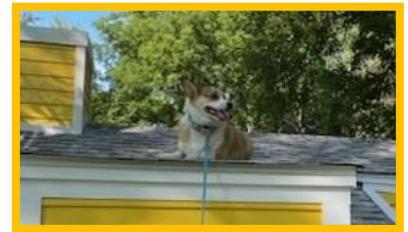
Even though it was a hot and humid morning, everyone had a good time and we welcomed Winnie the Corgi and her handler Ramona Adams and LoriAnn.



Hallie and Button



Peggy with Zoey Rose and Pennybelle



Winnie on the rooftop



How much is that Zena in the window?



Cooper with Tara and her older sister Willow



Hallie

On August 10 Ramona Adams with Winnie and Robyn Porter with Hallie met at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis for Stand Up Paddleboard!

Although Winnie had never been on an SUP before, she kept her balance like a champ!

Hallie, remembering earning her SUP badge five years ago—being pushed off the SUP and hauled back on and Robyn “falling off” the board and climbing back on, was understandably suspicious the entire morning!



Winnie



Troop 188—CT ~ DSA Troop 188

Michelle Lake—Co-Leader

June started off a busy summer of events, festivals and local fairs.

Ledyard C.H.A.I.N. (Citizen's Helping Animals in Need) held their annual Fur-Raiser for Animal Control Medical Funds.

The troop donated a raffle basket and did a little shopping too.



Waterford, East Lyme and New London Animal Control teams held a Pasta & Potato Salad Contest and Vendor Fair to raise month for their medical funds.

The troop had a booth there and donated a raffle basket.

The CT Science Center in Hartford hosted a Police Dog event featuring some of our local K9 teams.

We crashed the party and gave out four more breathing kits to teams in the state.

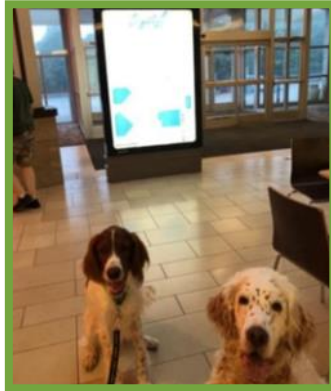
Member Michelle even found herself on stage speaking to the crowd!



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Our annual celebration of the 188th day of the year was held indoors this year due to weather.

Teams met up at the mall for some leash-walking, greeting and urban skills.



It was a warm, breezy, humid night for Dog Scout Thunder to attend the Parade of Breeds at the North Stonington Agricultural Fair. She walked around the ring and did some meet and greets before and after the event.

Congratulations to future Dog Scout Percy on becoming the official comfort and therapy dog for the town of East Lyme, CT.

We are so proud of you!



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

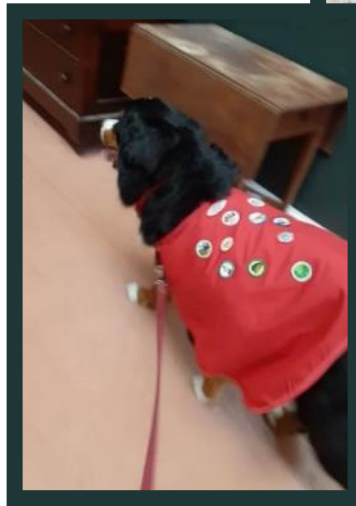
We held a fit-dog obstacle course in honor of the Olympics.

Teams worked through climbing, cavalettis, crawling, weaving and perching.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

A new, local dog store held a dog day parade. Thunder and Sassy wore their new capes for the event.



Members Lincoln, Sassy, Sara and Thunder attended a Blessing of the Animals.



Troop 198—CA ~ SF South /Bay Area Troop 198

Janet Gee

Here's a sampling of our calendar of fun in the sun -- learning activities and accomplishments -- but this year, due to excessive heat, we did not participate in our usual summer highlights, the July 4th Parade in Morgan Hill. Trevor and Tegan Lane had a dress rehearsal the day before, so they're ready for next year

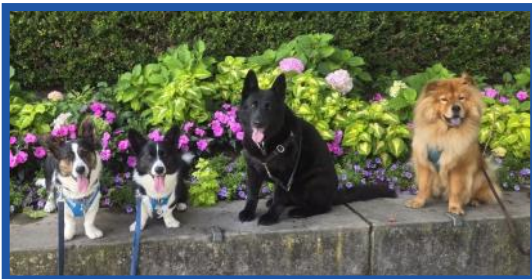
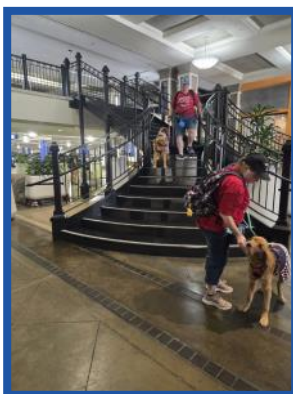


Training:



We held a number of training outings in both urban and park settings, where we practiced the skills to become a Dog Scout.

Pack walking at Marshall Cottle county park with loose leashes, while enjoying all the country sniffs.



At Santana Row mall, hoomans and doggos practiced stairs, and joint sit/stay which the doggos also practiced by themselves.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

At Los Paseos city park, Daphne scented and considered sit/stay in the hoop while mom Jadelynn coached.



Rod lured Jelly to jump the hurdles.



Then Janet encouraged Cider to run the tunnel.



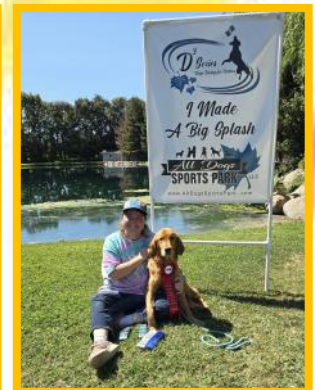
Accomplishments:

On a super-fast track, Tegan passed his AKC Canine Good Citizen test and received his Dog Scout Title and badge.

In the Paw-lympics Virtual Camp, he and his big bro Trevor represented both the U.S. and Wales, the country origin of their Cardigan Welsh Corgi breed, and were award Gold rocker patches for all 5 categories in which they participated: Parkour, Tricky Weaves, Push N Pull, Targeting and Dressage.



Sunshine Gumbin earned her AKC Novice Trick Title, and was awarded 2nd place in the D3 Series at All Dogs Sports Park Junior Finals, with her jump of 12'2" – wow!





Troop 217—MI ~ The Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Hiking, letterboxing, camp cleanup, Parkour, more hiking and letterboxing, summer camp, sign language, and therapy visits plus we have an international supermodel in our midst!

You heard that right, our own Drizzle Perez, the oldest Dog Scout in our troop at age 14, won a photography contest that provided support for their chosen charity, the First Step ARK program. Both Drizzle and his brother, Cadet Scout Ghillie Dhu competed in the contest sponsored by photographer Lisa Kahler. Lisa donated the session fee and photographed 16 dogs that all went into a bracket style voting contest, the Pooch Playoffs. Over the course of a week the voting went from the sweet 16, to the elite 8, the final 4 and finally to the championship round. Votes from Dog Scout members showed in the final pairing when both Drizzle and Ghillie Dhu made it to the championship round!

Drizzle came out on top and was then put into an international contest with a one-day winner take all vote off with 42 dogs.

Once again Drizzle pulled off the win! He received a very nice, engraved Yeti bowl for his modeling efforts, and First Step ARK received a total of \$2,520.



About First Step ARK –

First Step is a non-profit agency in Wayne County Michigan providing comprehensive services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The ARK (Animals Receiving Kindness) Building allows survivors to bring their pets into shelter. The building features four dog kennels, four cat kennels, an outdoor dog run, four outdoor dog pens, a cat play area, a family visitation area, a laundry/storage area and a restroom.

The ARK is an important resource to remove the barriers that keep survivors from leaving for fear that their pet will be harmed or killed as a result of the power and control that often occurs in domestic violence situations.

The shelter does not have a lot of space to store things, so monetary donations are the best way to help. They will purchase things as needed for the animals staying in the shelter. If you would like to make a donation to ARK go to www.firststep-mi.org/donate/ark/

Several of us participated in the annual camp cleanup weekends this year to clean up trails, clean gutters, paint, and perform general repairs. We scrubbed and buffed everything in sight, and we burned mountains of branches and brush cleared from trails so that everything would be just right for campers when they arrived. We were proud to put up a new sign at our driveway to replace the one that had been there for quite some time.

Then it was time to attend camp! Everyone was excited to be able to work on the new Parkour 2 badge, but there were other badges, like Directional Control, Musical Freestyle, Search & Rescue, DOGa, Canine Nutrition and others that, while not new, had not been a focus at camp in some time. As usual, everyone at camp had a great time. Our troop had 7 people in attendance at camp with 9 dogs. This group managed to earn a total of 27 badges!

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Several weeks after camp, a number of us headed back up there for our annual crafting weekend. This is always a fun weekend where everyone spends time working on their own crafts and having fun with their dogs. It's a relaxed weekend with no fixed schedule that allows us to enjoy spending time together with each other and with our dogs.

We've done quite a bit of hiking and letterboxing including some urban hiking and hiking in some parks that are new to us as well as some old favorites. Of course, whenever we hike we make sure that we locate any letterboxes in the area. We also take the opportunity to make overnight trips for letterboxing to further flung areas as Diane B., Diane C. and Cheryl did with Jaxson, Angel and Matty when they travelled to search for letterboxes that were placed for an event a few years ago.



We've continued to hold our monthly Zoom meetings, and since we have found them to be a great way to work on badges together, we have started our focus on Sign Language. This badge is so important to teach since it can really help you to connect with your dog if he loses his hearing in the future. We have a longtime member who relied on sign language alone to communicate with her dog for nearly 6 years after the dog lost her hearing. Because of this experience, we revisit this topic every couple of years. At this time we have only begun to check out requirements for a few dogs but anticipate that many will complete the requirements and earn the badge this fall.

Troop members Cheryl with Matty and Carrie with Darby have been focusing on therapy visits in the past few months. While Darby is a seasoned therapy dog with many, many hours under her belt, Matty is new to therapy work. Matty just earned his credentials for therapy work this spring and has been spending his time practicing his skills in many different venues. As Matty becomes more skilled he will surely find his niche in therapy work, just as Darby has.

In addition to other accomplishments, dogs in our troop—including Jaxson and my own Mackenzie and Bruno—have earned 9 Trails titles this year.

Rainbow Bridge

Cadet Scout Knight in Chocolate Armor CGCA CGCU TKA NTD UADNJ

Luie crossed the rainbow bridge on June 5, 2024. Not only did Luie earn titles, but he was a service dog for 8 years, helping me with my disability to function better. Then, in his retirement, he continued to serve as a therapy dog. He was a wonderful dog who loved life, food, fetch, bum scratches, and swimming (not necessarily in that order). He remained a cadet only because of my procrastination - he could have passed the test with a breeze.



I remember when I took Luie swimming for the first time. My previous dog only liked to wade in the water, so I did a double take when he took off into the water and swam out to the middle of the pond! He swam

instinctively, and he loved swimming - as a former lifeguard and competitive swimmer; I was thrilled! I introduced him to dock diving and while he didn't think jumping off the dock was as fun as swimming (he never advanced past novice); he LOVED to swim for his toy! A local family had a dock and pool for dogs and we'd rent it. There were many memories made there swimming together, racing for his toy, jumping off together, and more.

While Luie displayed ecstatic exuberance in the water, he remained calm and collected during visits or outings to nursing homes and hospitals as a therapy dog. He brought joy to many faces with his smile and gentle attitude. His favorite was always being invited to activity time in the nursing homes when the residents would throw a soft toy and he would return it to the resident of his choice by gently placing it in their lap then back off to wait for them to throw it again. Somehow he seemed to always know who hadn't had a turn or who might need a little more time to pick up the toy and toss it or who needed a little "encouragement" (aka a little woof!). But he was always up for some calm pets, too. We heard many stories of farm dogs, long gone, brought back to memory by petting Luie's short coat.

Luie was cool and chill in times of trouble, too. When I would pass out, he knew to follow his training and immediately lick my face and arms until I regained consciousness and let him know I was okay. If at home, he retrieved a bottle of water for me (sometimes a random other object or two - like a book, pillow, stuffed animal, or dog toy - just in case, of course!). He knew several other tasks as well, such as counterbalance to help me walk. He was always reliable in public, no matter what weird thing we encountered - like a life-sized animatronic dinosaur, costumed people, or just a loud scary movie. His one weakness was food - food on the ground sometimes ended with him giving me "puppy dog eyes" asking if just this once he could have it. Pretty please?

Luie was a very good boy who touched many who will miss his smiling face, his happy tongue, and "love of life" attitude.

AJ Wiseman

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

[#dogscoutsofamerica](https://twitter.com/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)