



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

Rally Obedience 1

PURPOSE: This badge shows that the handler has taught his or her dog basic obedience as needed for a typical novice level Rally Obedience course, and that the two can negotiate a typical course, performing as indicated on the signs.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: Dog knows basic behaviors such as heel- while handler moves in any direction, sit, down, stay, come, and stand, and will perform them correctly on cue. The majority of the badge criteria should be demonstrated during a rally course, but if a few of the signs don't fit into the course, those must be demonstrated separately.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler understands the rules of Rally Obedience and has developed a partnership with his dog using positive training methods. The owner must make his/her way from station to station, getting the dog to perform as indicated well enough to have a qualifying performance in a novice level rally trial. This includes knowing what side of the sign to be on, avoiding knocking down a sign (handler or dog), etc.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: A set of Rally equipment is needed including signs, stands, cones, etc. and a flat, open area to set up a course. The badge is based on the AKC rally venue, but equipment from any venue can be used. AKC signs can be printed from their Rally rulebook if desired.

PROCESS: Rally Obedience is a form of competition obedience where the judge stands in the ring and marks the obedience performance, while the handler/dog team navigate through a course. The judge does not call out any directions. Instead, the course is marked with signs which tell the team what to do give directions to the next sign. The handler reads the sign and performs the response indicated before continuing on to the next sign.

In Rally Obedience, the dog/handler team has to be able to quickly and correctly perform the required exercise and move along the course smoothly. Teams must perform the exercises with precision. There are 81 cards with various instructions on them. The judge plans and sets the course. Dog/handler teams never know the signs that will be used on the course or in the order they might be used.

Video of up to 2 rally show courses may be used when earning this badge if a qualified DSA evaluator is not the person designing and setting the course. Additional video clips are needed to show any moves that were not covered by show courses. If a show course is used for evaluation a scan or photo of the course map(s) provided by the judge.

ALLOWED:

- On leash performance
- Extra cues
- Talking to and/or encouraging the dog

NOT ALLOWED:

- Using non-approved training methods
- Using food on the courses
- Any conduct unbecoming a Dog Scout team