



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Hiking

Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

- Dog will walk on a 20-foot line and instantly return to handler when cued
- Dog will walk with handler off leash and will immediately return to handler when cued
- Dog has an instant recall in the presence of distractions**
- Dog will perform a 'leave it' off leash with a tempting toy or food, or with live or previously living wildlife**
- Dog can be prevented from chasing wildlife with a verbal cue**
- Dog must stay in the vicinity of and within sight of the handler**
- Handler always carries at least 3 dog waste bags when on the trail and demonstrates responsible dog parenting on the trail by always cleaning up after the dog**
- Dog must be able to safely meet a friendly stranger and a friendly dog, after reattaching the leash**
- Handler must demonstrate that he/she is able to identify and locate poison ivy and/or other dangerous plants; handler can identify other dangers that might be encountered while hiking in his/her area**
- Handler demonstrates an understanding of when the dog should be put back on the leash for safety reasons**
- Handler and dog must complete a minimum of 6 miles of hiking, mostly off leash, including one hike that is at least 3 miles**