



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Puppy Paddler

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 follow handler into progressively deeper water
- Dog will allow handler to hold him up in water of the dog's swimming depth
- Dog will attempt to swim while handler is holding him in the water
- Dog will enter the water with the handler and will swim out a short distance
- Dog demonstrates that he can swim at least 10' voluntarily with encouragement, away from or parallel to the shore or other water exit**

Note: The Puppy Paddler badge is the only badge that may be earned by dogs PRIOR to earning the Dog Scout badge.