

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 4 December 2024/January 2025

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February FUN^dRaiser

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
March 1

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

Ready For Fast CAT?

Sally Hoyer—DSA President

That's right! DSA's newest badge is Fast CAT! Many members have asked about Fast CAT and we decided the time was right to implement our own badge.

If you're not familiar with Fast CAT, it's basically a 100-yard dash following a lure. It's a very popular activity with dog clubs around the country.

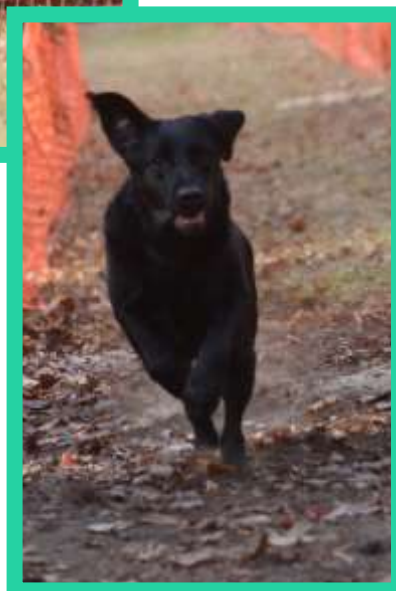
All of the badge information for Fast CAT is now available on the DSA website and we know that many of you will be wanting to send in videos for this badge soon; however, we ask that you **hold off on sending any videos for evaluation until after January 20.**



As with any badge, you'll need to review the badge requirements and criteria carefully. In writing this badge we wanted to ensure that both handler and dog engaged in the activity, therefore, in addition to the dog running the course successfully twice, the handler must demonstrate management of their dog appropriately on and around the course, assist in the operations of the activity, and calculate their own dog's MPH.



As the CAT in Fast CAT means "Coursing Ability Test," the dog must **stay on the lure** in order for the run to be successful. That means that no one may call the dog to the end or yell any encouragement. While a "Go! Go! Go!" is permitted in the starting area as a help to get the dog ready to run, the handler (or helper) must stop talking once the dog crosses the start line.



We were able to preview this badge at the Badge Blitz event at the MI Camp in November. The participating dogs all had a lot of fun with it as did the people, despite the cold and wind.

We hope that you and your dogs will have fun with it too and we look forward to seeing your videos.



First Aid Skills Are Important!

Sally Hoye—DSA President

How are your First Aid skills? Are you confident that you can handle an emergency that comes up suddenly with your or someone else's dog?

Even though we have a First Aid badge that you may have earned with your dog, education on this topic must continue. Familiarity and practice will help to keep you calm when an accident happens or another emergency occurs.

My first aid skills were recently put to the test when I received a call from my next door neighbor. He asked if I was free to come and help him with his dog's toenail. He didn't sound concerned on the phone, so I headed over to help, assuming that he needed help clipping toenails. I should have asked more questions.



I entered his house and immediately realized that I was walking into a true emergency. There were pools of blood all over the floor in his kitchen and den and Indy, one of his dogs was on the floor on his side and a bit frantic. Looking at my neighbor, I realized that he understood that his dog was in trouble. He simply asked, "Can you hold him?"



Here's the patient and his brother with 75-pound Mackenzie for reference.

Now Indy is a sweet dog, very calm and docile, but he is 180 pounds, much bigger and stronger than I am. As you can see from the photo, Indy is an Irish Wolfhound. Had he been a smaller dog, he would not have survived the amount of blood loss that was indicated by the many huge pools on the floor and now soaking the carpet in the den.

I assessed the situation carefully and saw that the blood was coming from Indy's foot, but there was too much blood to see what was wrong. I quickly grabbed a leash and put an emergency muzzle on the dog, a good idea in an emergency situation and necessary here due to Indy's size and how close I knew I had to get to his rather large head and teeth to even attempt to slow the blood loss.

After muzzling Indy I was comfortable to restrain him. As it seemed that my neighbor was in a panic, I restrained the dog by putting my body on top of his and immobilized his leg with my right hand. That left my left hand free to probe his foot. After applying pressure for a few minutes I was able to see that Indy's toenail was completely gone, leaving a large hole in his foot that was spurting blood.

Once I knew what I was dealing with it was just a matter of slowing the bleeding and applying a pressure dressing. Simple, but I had little in the way of supplies. That's where asking questions in advance would have helped. I grabbed a kitchen towel that looked clean and wrapped Indy's foot up tightly. I asked my neighbor to hold the towel tightly while I ran back to my house for our first aid kit.

First Aid Skills Are Important! (Continued)

Upon returning next door I unwrapped Indy's foot to discover that the pressure had helped considerably. I grabbed the scissors from my first aid kit and clipped as much hair as possible from around the toe. Then I was able to pack the wound and apply a proper pressure dressing. I wrapped the foot up tightly so that Indy couldn't disturb my handiwork.



Indy is the big guy in front. His brother, Corwin, and sister, KC, are also pictured.

With the situation now under control I removed the muzzle, escorted Indy to the sofa and gave him some Benadryl to keep him calm. Then I sat my neighbor down beside him and gave him a shot of whiskey to steady his nerves. I advised that Indy be taken to the vet in the morning and told my neighbor to call me if Indy bled through the pressure dressing before he could get to the vet.

Indy got to the vet the following morning. She assessed my work and determined that there was no sign of infection and that the wound was packed well. She didn't want to chance disturbing the wound by removing all the packing. She rewrapped the foot and sent them home with instructions to leave the bandage on and limit Indy's activity for 3 days.

Indy's foot has since healed and he is back to normal. My neighbor has no idea how Indy lost his toenail so dramatically and says that cleaning up all that blood the next day was no picnic.

Indy is such a sweet boy and I'm glad that I could help him, but had I not been well versed in first aid, the situation could have had a much different outcome. This was not a simple nick of the quick that quick stop could help. It was the removal of the entire nail.

We have quite a bit of information on first aid on our website with the [badge information](#). Reviewing this information periodically will help you to be confident and prepared in emergency situations. There are also canine first aid classes held by different organizations around the country. A quick internet search will let you know if there are any coming up in your area.

Keep your skills fresh! You never know when an emergency will cause you to need those skills. Being prepared could help you to save a life.



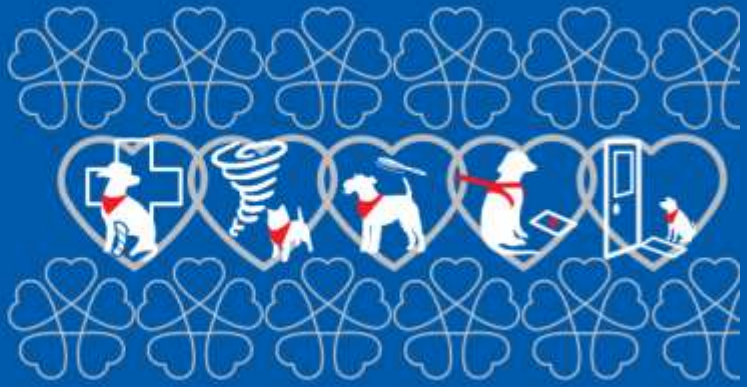
Sweet boy!

Registration for DSA'S February FUN^dRaiser

Dedicated

Dog

Parent



is now open!

DSA is celebrating Responsible Pet Owners Month this February with our **Dedicated Dog Parent month-long** virtual event. This is an opportunity to show off some of the frequently forgotten, but practical and everyday behaviors that have made your dog an easier and more reliable companion to live with, and to practice and refresh skills that benefit every responsible dog parent and the canines we love.

- 👍 If you want to practice vital first aid skills before they're needed—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you want to build confidence to prevail over the panic that is frequently felt when faced with an emergency situation—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you want to encourage cooperation from your dog even during times of over excitement, fear, or pain—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you want a nudge to video check-off behaviors for some of the Responsible Pet Parenting merit badges—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you want an easy opportunity to review important skills from merit badges already earned—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you haven't thought about responsible pet parenting before—[register for this event](#)
- 👍 If you want to be more involved with your fellow DSA enthusiasts—[register for this event](#)

DSA membership is not required to participate in this event, so encourage the dog parents in your family and circle of friends to register and participate with you. You can proceed at your own training level to complete as many of the activities as you and your dog are able—whether that's all of them because you're reviewing previously completed merit badge behaviors or just picking one new skill to train for the week—learning new things, perfecting skills, training your dog, and building the trust relationship, are all demonstrations of your commitment as a responsible and dedicated dog parent, **so go for it!**

Register by February 2nd

[CLICK HERE to Register for DSA's Dedicated Dog Parent Virtual Event](#)

\$40/person

While we'd love to see your videos and pictures posted on the private Facebook group created for this event, you can participate offline—Facebook is not required for this event.

New Dog Scouts

Sally Hoye—DSA President

Our Dog Scout Class of 2024 is complete with the addition of the Scouts below. Please join me in congratulating these dogs and their owners for their achievements. Many of these dogs have already worked to earn additional badges, either by working on their own or at the TX Mini Camp.



Fallon Mae Alpha - Troop 119
Hurst, TX



Lettie Sue Ensley - Troop 150
Bella Vista, AR



Abby Kreger - Troop 119
Springtown, TX



Sucha Lanter - Troop 119
Richland Hills, TX



Alex Luttrell- Troop 119
Kennedale, TX



Phil Patton - Troop 119
Austin, TX



Red Paxson - Troop 119
Arlington, TX



Knox Spencer - Troop 119
Denison, TX



Hershey Tucker - Troop 119
North Richland Hills, TX



Allie Webb - Troop 119
Baton Rouge, LA



Gilly Woolnough - Troop 119
Weatherford, TX

Congratulations all!

Trail Title Triumphs

Kristie Iwamoto (Maurice's Mom)



The Trail Dog Titles department has been busy! The following talented dogs earned Trail Titles between April and December of 2024:



Letterbox Dog

Angel Cranston (LBD/LBA)
Bruno Hoyle (LBA/LBX/LBD500)
Mackenzie Hoyle (LBD750)
Jax Long (LBD500)
Molly Long (LBD500)
Caper Olson (LBA/LBX/LBD500)
Kismet Olson (LBD500)
Scallywag Olson (LBD500)
Goldy Reid (LBX)



Pack Dog

Angel Cranston
Bruno Hoyle
Mackenzie Hoyle



Sophie Spanovich Damm
gobbling miles in December

& with her Trail Dog title patches and certificates



Trail Dog

Zebi's Some Kind of Wonderful Almann (UT10K)
Jaxson Baughman
Jasmine Burgess (UT500)
Angel Cranston
Sophie Spanovich Damm (TD/TDX)
Bruno Hoyle (TD/TDX)
Booker Keel (UT750)
Goldy Reid (UT500)
Veda Taylor (UT500)
Patch Walker (UT13K/UT14K/UT15K/UT16K)



If you're interested in learning more about earning a Trail Title, please visit our [Trail Dog Titles](#) page. If you have any questions, just email me at titles@dogscouts.org.



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales



Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trail Blazers

Fay Reid—Troop Leader

We were invited to attend a Boy Scout event at Bay City State Park to talk about how to approach dogs and what to do if a strange dog approaches you.

Goldy and Booker interacted with kids and their families throughout the day and helped them recite the Bite Prevention Safety Pledge.



Troop Meeting at the MI Camp. We worked on obstacles 3, Rally Free, and Manners.



We lost one of our Dog Scouts, Jax Long in September.

Take time to love on your kids, pets, family & friends. You never know when it will be your last opportunity to do so.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

This year's Fall outing was the Fall Flannel Frolic.

Everyone was encouraged to wear their flannel attire.



There was a fall backdrop for photo ops.



Activities from water, agility, puppy training and kisses from Cliff, scavenger hunt for lost animals in the woods that held a secret message and prize, a scented trail, relaxing time, flannel pillow fights, Mom or Dad's lost pillow, log rolling competition, pumpkin relay, Lumberpersons Jeopardy, hikes, to an axe throwing competition. Something for everyone along with good food and friendship.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

October

Our troop began working on the beginning Treibball badge. Working on sending to place & staying for at least a count to 5, some were able to check off on that piece. Everyone began getting their dog to push open a rolled blanket by putting treats in it. They also started pushing objects, capturing it before they used their paws.

Treibball:



Go out



Stay



Push 3 items not a ball



Push a ball

Scent work:



In the leaves . . .



and on a skull for Halloween/fall

We also began working on the Tricks Badge and plan to have some skits at our Christmas Party in December.



Troop 101—MI (cont.)

November

Members attended the Badge Blitz workshop held at the MI camp. People came with their dogs ready to check out on badges like Search & Rescue, No Contact Agility, Obstacles 1, 2, &3, Manners, Rally Free, Musical Freestyle.

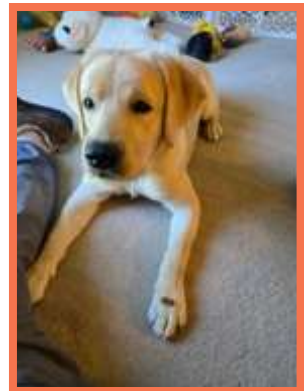
The first annual Badge Blitz was a huge success with 9 human participants accompanied by 14 dogs earning a total of 48 badges. Isn't that amazing?

The weekend was filled with sessions led by Fay, Sally and Lonnie that were tailored to the interests and needs of the participants. The format was a blend between summer camp and the fall outing weekend.

The introduction of the newest DSA badge—Fast CAT was a highlight. The course is set at the edge of the Activity Field with posts and fencing. The humans learned all the working positions (gate keeper, starter, timer etc.) to make all runs successful. The dogs were excited, and the times improved with each attempted run. The resident photographer (Fay) took action shots of each dog and Goldy was so kind to share those photos with participants in the auction for a donation to DSA. Everyone had a good time together, learning new skills and helping others to be successful in their weekend goals.



Goldy getting ready to attend the Texas Mini Camp. She has all her stuff ready to pack. She said Cindy said she wouldn't need her booties this year! She is ready for water racing, geocaching, steeplechase and more.



Cliff Parker, is our troop's newest Pup Scout

Troop 101—MI (cont.)

At our Troop meetings we worked on pushing objects, tricks and more getting ready for our show in December.



Midland Santa Parade: attended by members of Troop 101 and 217. The 3-mile trek through the town of Midland was a huge success. Lots of comments were heard from the crowd about the beautiful German Shepherd, that Boston Terriers driving the cart, dancing dogs, look at all those badges and more.



Turkey Trot: Kyra, Goldy & Molly decided to take their Mom's out for some turkey trotting to work off the turkey they ate. They also took in a little Geocaching along the way. Cliff put in the time with his dad on the western side of the state where they saw a little bit of snow.

Garden City Parade: attended by members of Troop 101 & 217. This was the coldest parade in their 64 years at a high of 22 degrees!



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to everyone!



Troop 119—TX ~ Lone Star Paws Squad

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

The last quarter of the year is always a busy and exciting time for Troop 119. This year we were in a new location for our annual mini-camp and it was set to be a very exciting camp. Our meetings leading up to camp offered an insight into a couple of activities that would be offered at camp.

In September, two of our troop members and camp instructors, Nancy Strack & Victoria Severns, gave an introduction to Triathadog. The dogs were split into two groups to work on aspects of the badge. Jett Severns provided a demo and then Victoria worked with dogs and their people in instructing them to circle the cones/barrels.

Nancy worked with the dogs and their people on the obedience portion. Even for dogs not planning on participating in Triathadog at mini-camp, they were able to practice and learn some valuable skills.



In October, troop member and camp instructor, Karen Deeds, presented Movement Puzzles, another activity that would be offered at camp. Movement puzzles combines shaping and handler mechanics to help build the dog's confidence emotionally and physically. It helps the dog move with balance, precision and awareness. This helps to build confidence to things in the environment as well as obstacles they are exposed to and helps to create a 'thinking dog'. Dempsey provided a great demonstration and all the dogs in attendance were able to work on behaviors that can be beneficial for numerous activities, sports and badges.

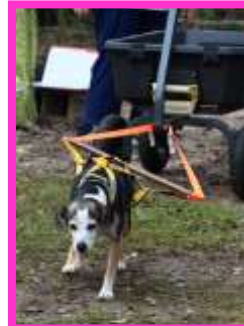
Troop 119—TX (cont.)

November brought Texas Mini-Camp and it was a big one as it was our 20th year!! We had lots of surprises for the campers including a special insulated cooler bag/goody bag with a special 20 year Texas Mini-Camp logo, a western themed photo booth and an anniversary party Friday night with a 20 year video. And, it turns out, the campers had surprises in store for us, too! We were surprised with a presentation of the DSA Founders Award, as well as a memory tree full of photos of Texas Mini-Camp campers and dogs over the last 19 years. We also were gifted with lots of special cards and gifts from our incredible campers. They were awesome surprises and we are very appreciative of all those involved in making it an extra special time for us.



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

And camp itself had some surprises in store for us all, too! For the first time ever, we got rain 3 of the 4 days of camp thanks to a hurricane that was in the gulf causing a lot of rain to be dumped on east Texas during our mini-camp weekend. But the campers were true sports and never complained! We made adjustments as needed and at least one activity continued on in the pouring rain. Thankfully, *most* of the heavier rain that fell, came overnight. It made for a squishy camp but we all managed to have an incredible time anyway.



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Congratulations to our newest Scouts!

We had 8 new Dog Scouts join the ranks at mini-camp:



Allie Webb



Annie Kregler



Fallon Alpha



Gilly Woolnough



Hershey Tucker



Lettie Sue Ensley



Phil Patton



Sucha Lanter

We also had 6 new campers join us this year, 4 of which were completely new to DSA. It was great having them and expect to see them again next year if not before.

We also had a huge year in terms of fundraising! We broke our previous auction record by a huge margin, and raised over \$10,000 for DSA!! We thank all those who contributed auction items (including some big donations from PetSmart & Petco) and our very, very generous campers! It was a great camp, in spite of the weather, and we feel so fortunate to have been able to continue such a great camp tradition for so many years.

We wrapped up the year with our biggest community service project.... Which will be reported next time!

Troop 149—MO ~ River City Rovers

Fran Beezley

July

It was another hot day, so we took a quick walk in the park and showed off some of our new Troop 149 shirts.

Then we headed indoors for a meeting and to play some games. At the end, Sandi celebrated Lou's birthday and remembrance with a gift bags for all the dogs.



August

Sandi wants to try to become an evaluator for the First Aid badge so most of this meeting was spent working on that. Even for those of us who already have the badge, a lot of useful information was shared and discussed. This session was videotaped, and another session will be set up to do the rest. The dogs did really well and, to reward them, they got to try a variety of puzzle games. We also discussed working on the Urban Hiking badge with our dogs. None of our members has that but it is something that we could try. It was suggested that one of hikes could be around the Kirkwood Farmer's Market where there is always a lot of activity.



October

It was a beautiful day so a small group of us met for a nice hike around Des Peres Park.



Troop 157—FL ~ Broward Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine



October—Halloween Celebration

Shari and Penny, Teresa, Ripley, and Tess, Dawn and River, Christine and Clover, and Roxana and Lucy participated in our Halloween celebration this year. We brought light bites, coffee and other snacks to start the beautiful morning off on the right foot, afterwards having some fun with our pups. This year we did something a little different by decorating our trunks for some “Trunk or Treat”. Everyone shared both a trick and a treat with everyone, which was a lot of fun and interactive. I believe this might be something we do annually.

November - Sparky's Turkey Trot

This year we kept with tradition meeting at a local park to participate in our 10th Annual DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot. We scheduled the walk on the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some of those extra calories and catch up with each other. The weather was beautiful this year and perfect for a walk for everyone. For those who were not able to make this date they completed their walk virtually at other locations, such as Costa Rica. While we didn't have a large group this year, we still had fun meeting up and enjoying the day out. A BIG THANKS goes out to Ripley & Tess (Teresa), Penny (Shari), and Jolie (Maria) for participating in the 2024 Turkey Trot and prior years.

Sending Happy Holidays to everyone!



Troop 177—IN ~ Indy Dog Scouts

Robin Porter

Troop #177 met on September 14 for painting in the park! Ramona with Winnie, Peggy with Zoey Rose and Pennybelle and Robyn with Hallie met on a beautiful morning in Rhodius Park for painting.



Peggy with Zoey Rose and Pennybelle

Ramona with Winnie



Hallie poses for a portrait

Hallie has had a busy fall! She earned the DSA Community Service 3 merit badge in October!



Winnie ready to party

Hallie accumulated over 1,000 hours for this badge by volunteering as a Pet Therapy dog on visits to hospitals and skilled care facilities, visits with grieving children, visits to university libraries during finals week as well as a canine blood donor and visits to the library where children read to her. Hallie also raised \$8,422.38 for Salvation Army, pet therapy organizations and pet rescue organizations. She's a valued fundraiser for Salvation Army and wears her DSA vest while "on duty".



Dog Bakery treats and party hats



Hallie and Button pose

Once new merit badges were sewn on her DSA vest, 16 year old Hallie posed on Monument Circle for her official birthday portrait!



Ramona swims with Button and Winnie



Guest Brooklyn the Collie is a swimmer

On the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving Hallie turned 16 years old! We celebrated with a pool party! Hallie's Dog Scout friends and Pet Therapy friends attended a pool party held at an indoor dog pool. The pool has one side with a sloped, gradual entry and three sides that have a walkway around the perimeter about 1 ½ feet below the surface. The deepest part of the pool is 4 feet deep. Every time I say the words "I'm throwing a pool party for my sixteen-year-old" I laugh out loud! Still laughing!



Guest Ben the Vizsla retrieves

Breakout swimming stars were Winnie the Corgi and little Button, the senior and practically blind Brussels Griffon mix! A few dogs started with life vests, and quickly discarded them as they gained confidence. All the dogs enjoyed the water. Happy Birthday Hallie!



Troop 183—FL ~ Paws Pack 183

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

September Scent Session

It's been a while since we've done scent work, so we started with some introductory exercises to remind our dogs the odors that pay. Amy brought Sandy, and Jeanette worked Ariea. Evelyn paired up with Tachi to learn a little about scent work from the pro.

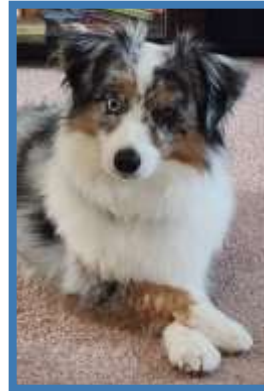


Nim left us in October 



November—New Troop Pup, Barn Hunt & Pontoon Ride

In November, Miniature American Shepherd, Isla, came to her forever home with Evelyn. She and Kyo (Shirley's Smooth Collie) made their DSA debut at the troop's Barn Hunt activity. We also finally videoed all the required components for Marvin's Barn Hunt merit badge! Woo-Hoo!



The troop was able to spend a morning on the water, courtesy of Jeanette and Dave. We're very thankful for the opportunity to spend some time relaxing and enjoying each other's company. We had lunch together before heading home for a much needed nap! We even got to see a swamp puppy on the way back to the marina.





Troop 188—CT ~ DSA Troop 188

Michelle Lake—Co-Leader



We took advantage of a cool, late summer morning and did some urban hiking. Our dogs walked on cobblestone crosswalks, a brick parade area, piers and over railroad tracks.



Distractions included trains coming and going, and ferries blowing their horns.

Time spent at the 10th Annual Chester Dog Fair was a huge success! Members went on day 1 to participate in events, shop the vendors and spread the word about Dog Scouts. Thunder did the required Olympic events and came home with a ribbon.

Day 2 the troop held AKC CGC, CGCA and Trick Dog Testing. Congratulations to all the new CGC and CGCA teams and the new Novice Trick Dog title holders.



Next up was Client Appreciation Day at a local training facility. This free event for current and past clients is full of fun things to do with your dog – rally, flyball, agility, parkour, obedience, tricks and much more. We helped by checking micro-chips and assisting with the CGC testing. We checked about 70 dogs!

Troop Co-Leaders Sheri & Michelle and their dogs helped judge a pet costume parade at a local home and garden center.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Members met up at a pumpkin patch for some fall photos.



The Troop went on a hike to see the Thomas Dambo Trolls at Ninigret State Park. Lots of great pack walking, followed by some swimming!

Thomas Dambo is an international recycle artist known for his beautiful, larger-than-life Trolls made from recycled wood.

There are currently more than 100 Trolls all over the world.



The next group walk was at the CT Renaissance Faire. This event is full of distractions – people in costumes, loud sounds, shows on outdoor stages, and yummy food like turkey legs! Our dogs did great.



The Groton Public Library invited us to join Bumpers & Books – a new event for us. Our theme was 636.7 which is the dewy decimal number for dogs.



Our truck “trunk” won an honorable mention medal. Over 1,100 people attended the event!

Troop 188—CT (cont.)



Quite a few members came out for an evening of trick or treating at a senior housing development. The residents were so happy to see us and the kids that came to help.

We generously received some donations from the residents and a heart-felt card thanking us for coming. We'll be back for Christmas Caroling in a few weeks.



One of our members offered to host an urban hike in a place she loves to take her dogs. We explored the coastal town of Essex with a great group of dogs & people. So everyone could participate, there was a 1.5 mile loop through some historic neighborhoods and an additional 1.5 mile loop down to the fishing piers. We'll be back!

Taking inspiration from the Dog Scout Pawlympics events earlier this year, we held a weekend of Wild & Wacky Challenge Courses. This fun and unique course was designed to test skills in exciting and new situations. Parts of the course included some of the Dog Scout test and AKC Temperament Test items. Fun was had by all!



The course ended with a holiday photo opportunity.





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

Janet Gee

This fall, our annual Mt. Madonna camping trip and Howl-o-Ween party were our highlight events, while we also enjoyed Sparky's Annual Turkey Trot, along with training and pack walks.

Annual Camping trip at Mt. Madonna site, Huckleberry

We had a nice turnout of current human members.



Christina, Kim, Trevor, Mark, Lennie, Sue, Carlotta, Leah and soon-to-be departing-to-Florida original member Patty, for our annual camping weekend. Here, they are guarded by four-legged members, from the left: Bailey, Sunshine, Trevor, Juni, Rylee, honorary feline Simba, Luna, Crystal, and Teagan



There were lots of fun photo ops using the natural scenery to practice our stands/sits/stays.



Then off we went for our annual hike to practice loose-leash walking.

Turkey Trot & Pack Walks

In addition to participating in Scouts' Sparky's Annual Turkey Trot, we hosted monthly pack walks. Loose leashes are the goal, and we get lots of practice walking peacefully next to each other on a variety of surfaces, as well as being calm when new dogs, bikes and fast scooters go by.

Of course, our Trot included our usual stand/sit/stay by both uprights and four-legged.

There were also lots of rodent dens to get our scent tracking practice done, Cider getting a noseful here.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Howl-o-ween Party

Pet Food Express in Campbell again graciously hosted our annual party, where our organizer extraordinaire, Leah, had a variety of training games for our decked-out troop.



LadyBug Sadie and Rockstar Scout with mom Sharon, are ready for their weaving time on the mini-agility course



Matching pumpkins Jadelynn and her Daphne get ready for the hurdles



Minion Mom Kim holds Minion Juni's attention, while the Gumbin family awaits their turn through the tunnel



The Lane Cardigans were superheroes, Superdog and Batdog, while sharing the platform together perfected for their parkour badges

Team Meetings

With the warm fall weather, we resumed group meetings at the large patio of Armadillo Willy's for finger-licking BBQ, while honing socialization skills of both Scouts and their hoomans. It's also an efficient way to review our past events and plan our future events.



The Armstrongs and their Golden Retrievers are joined by Sharon's Scout and Sadie



The Lane Cardigans wait patiently for the sweet potato fries leftover on the table that MUST have been saved for them

Accomplishments



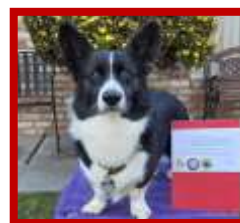
Sunshine, Luna and Bailey earned their Parkour 2 badges, which included double rails, walking, backing up on a ramp and going under a bench.



Crystal Gumbin earned her Therapy Dog Reading Badge, logging 50 hours with 20 in a reading-to-dog program and her Clean Up America 2 badge.



Teagen Lane earned his Clean Up America 2 badge by collecting 50 bags of dog waste that other dog parents neglectfully didn't pick up.



Trevor Lane received 3 Badges this quarter for:
1) Therapy Dog Reading for 50 hours of pet therapy, with kids reading to him for 20;
2) Therapy Dog Hospital/Hospice for 100 hours of pet therapy including 20 on hospital/hospice visits;
3) Parkour Level 2 where he loved climbing rocks & trees, jumping on moving swings and crawling under downed trees, walking on 2 X 4s and backing up a 60 degree ramp.



Troop 217—MI ~ The Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader



Our troop has continued with our Zoom meetings throughout the fall, working on the Sign Language badge. At this point we have several dogs who are close to completing the requirements and will likely finish shortly into the new year. We've done some hiking and letterboxing, with some of us involved in planning for a future Letterboxing event. We've had trips to cider mills, corn mazes and pet expos.

Many of us spent time at camp for a really fun Fall Outing, the Fall Flannel Frolic. There were lots of really creative games, a costume contest (lots of flannel), trick or treating, a Photo Booth, and some really great meals. The event came together nicely with many hands working on the execution. No one had to be responsible for the entire event. We just worked together closely to make sure everything fit around our theme.

2024 By the Numbers

- 8 attended MI Camp
- 14 dogs earned badges
- 54 badges were earned
- 1 new Dog Scout
- 4 dogs earned trails titles
- 13 titles were earned
- Countless hours of fun!!!

We also went up to camp in November for the first of what we hope are annual Badge Blitz weekends. This weekend was set up around badges that the most participants were interested in. Time was spent working to finish up badges that dogs had started on but had not had the to finish up. Some needed a little extra help to complete requirements and we were able to accomplish this as the group was kept small. We also got to debut our newest badge, the long-awaited Fast CAT, and the dogs had an amazing time with it. In all, the weekend was a great success and we are planning to hold another in the spring. These events are open to any members so if you are interested in attending, just shoot me an email.



But the best part about this time of year for us is the PARADES!!! We are blessed to be close enough to our sister Troop 101 that we can spread a lot of holiday cheer and make the parade season fun for all our members.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

We joined Troop 101 in for the Midland Christmas parade. Normally the weather for this parade is cold and very windy (Midland is a WINDY city), but this year the weather was fairly mild so we didn't notice the wind quite so much. It's a long parade at 3.5 miles, but that only gives us more time to show off our dogs and let people interact with them.

At 14 years old, Katie especially loves this part!



The following week members of Troop 101 joined us in Garden City for the Santaland Parade. This parade celebrated its 64th year and we were proud to be a part of it as we have been for many years. However, Garden City experienced the coldest and snowiest parade in its history!



Ghillie, the Siberian Husky was the happiest participant in the entire parade that day. He just couldn't understand why we were all so cold and "woo-wooded" his way through the parade route.

Despite the cold, we represented DSA well.



We have had so much fun in 2024 and our dogs have achieved many great things. I celebrate every badge and title earned as well as every successful step toward a badge. Whether that badge is ever earned or not, the human/canine team have had success, made a lasting memory, and strengthened the bond between them.

Top Dogs

1. Bruno Hoyle
18 badges & 6 titles
2. Angel Cranston
7 badges & 4 titles
3. Jaxson Baughman
6 badges & 1 title
4. Mackenzie Hoyle
4 badges & 2 titles
5. Matty Ashford
4 badges

Here's to another great year in 2025! I can't wait for the fun to start!



Rainbow Bridge

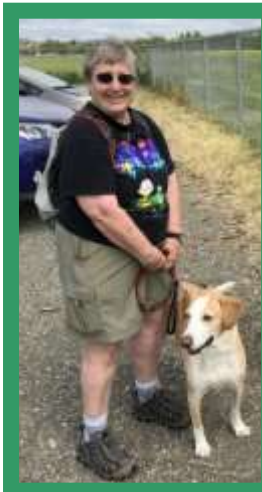


Nim

Ceildh's Katana Marked By DeepRiver
 CD BN RAE CA SWM SHDN RATS CGCA TKP, DSA, ETD
 12/1/2011—10/4/2024
 Shirley Conley, Troop 183

Rainbow Bridge (cont.)

It is with great sadness that Troop 198 shares that **Buddy Averre** crossed the Rainbow Bridge on October 28th. Buddy had the perfect name because he was the perfect buddy to both dogs and people alike. He came all the way from Taiwan to be adopted by Jan Averre through Pet Finders.



Buddy loved to do pack walks both at Santana Row Mall in the heart of Silicon Valley, out in the beautiful openness of Martial Cottle Park or out in the woods up on the Mt. Madonna at our annual Dog Scout Camping trips. Buddy always had a smile on his face and a happily wagging tail as he trotted along with his Mom and his Dog Scout friends down the sidewalk or down the trail.

He was Jan's "Best Buddy" and loved to cuddle up with her in bed when they settled down for the night after a long day. When his little brother Teddy joined the pack, he showed him the ropes and gave him confidence to join in with his Dog Scout friends and hit the trail. Buddy was a wonderful blessing in our lives, and we are all the better for knowing him. See you on the other side, Buddy!

Tempest - earned her wings
Dec 12, 2010—Aug 19, 2024
Lisa Stewart, Rolla, MO
Troop 149



GDH DC UCH Meisterhaus Neon Nights
MC LCAZ THDA CGC COCU BCAT TKP
SWE SGRC JDR ORG LP Tlx GEOA DS
ETD LCM VFCR MVB



Troop 198 lost one of our newest cadets, **Jelly Ngai**, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on November 8th. She was adopted by Janet and Rod just over two years ago from All Animal Rescue and Friends, who, with a local veterinarian, saved her since her first family didn't want her anymore. Known for her spunk and smile, she was a beautiful toasted loaf who loved to play with her little bro, Cider and other dogs, monitor her pawrents, give kisses, and be on the lookout for anything new. Like Buddy, she loved the Scout pack walks and training, catching on very quickly to agility and parkour.

Jelly also joined the Everyone Loves a Corgi pack for the Avon Breast Cancer Walk and Pride Parades in San Francisco, and enjoyed visiting the residents at Grandma's senior living community. Though her time with us was far too short, we are grateful to have had her light up our lives as a member of our pack, and look forward to seeing her again on the other side too.



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)