



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

IMPROV Obedience

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.

- ☐ **Handler understands the concept of IMPROV Obedience**
- ☐ **Handler/dog team must demonstrate their ability to negotiate the 6 exercises of Standard Level IMPROV as described in the IMPROV handbook**
 - Exercises must be set up by another person with knowledge of IMPROV
 - Handler may not have any prior knowledge of how the exercises will be set up
- ☐ **Dog demonstrates an understanding of and willingness to perform the foundation behaviors listed for the exercises in the IMPROV handbook, including**
 - Heeling
 - Targeting (directing the dog to contact an object)
 - Socialization to novel experiences
 - Working at a distance from the handler
 - Directional control
 - Performing cued behaviors
 - Retrieve
- ☐ **Dog is willing to come into contact with unfamiliar objects**
- ☐ **Dog attempts to do as asked with determination and continued focus when confronted with unusual requests**
- ☐ **Handler and dog can work together as a team to accomplish a goal**
- ☐ **Handler demonstrates lateral thinking in order to solve a problem**
- ☐ **Dog will follow cues at a distance of at least 10' from the handler**
- ☐ **Dog will attempt to retrieve 3 objects of any type placed on the ground by another person**
 - All objects must be VERY unusual and/or unwieldy
 - Dog should fully retrieve at least 1 item and make a good attempt to retrieve all 3 items
- ☐ **Dog will carry an object to a specified location and place the object in a specific location or into a container as directed by the handler**
- ☐ **Dog will travel 10' in the general direction indicated by the handler and stop when cued**
- ☐ **Handler can describe and demonstrate a unique and potentially useful behavior that he/she has taught the dog**