

DSA Auction Fundraiser

Dog Scouts of America is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational and charitable organization. We are publicly supported, and one of the ways we get donations is through our annual auctions. At each of the summer camps, held in Michigan, campers bring interesting, rare, or unusual items to donate to the auction. Throughout the camp, the items are bid on, first silently, then in a live auction during a mealtime. The campers have a lot of fun bidding, and some unusual things have happened. We have had people donate big-ticket items, like computer laptops, custom artwork, or DVD players. Other people donate items from the dollar store, and if the bidding gets hot enough, the item might go for 20 or 30 times the actual cost of the item! There is no item too large or small to donate to the DSA Lively Silent Auction.

There are campers that send stuff to the auction every year, even when they can't attend camp themselves. The auction is a lot of fun to be involved with, whether as a donor or a bidder. Sometimes people bid against each other just to be "a stinker." Then, when the bidding gets too high for one of them, the other (who wins the bid) will give the item to the competing bidder as a gift (surprise!).

One year, someone donated a custom made quilt, with 1ft replicas of the dog scout merit badges all over it, and a giant DSA Logo. The bidding was wild on this item, and it finally went for over \$800.00. Then, the campers informed camp director, Lonnie Olson, that it was hers as a gift! (the \$800.00 was still donated to DSA—all of the campers chipped in to purchase this beautiful quilt, which just HAD to stay at Dog Scout Camp, for everyone to admire)!



If you would like to donate something to one of the Auctions, anything would be welcome. Some of the more hotly contested items are one-of-a-kind items. Handcrafted dog art items, like sculptures, jewelry, doggie cookie jars or water bowls or feeding stands, are always popular. Dog apparel, like totes, or socks or anything with a dog motif, are a hit. The item doesn't have to be dog related, but it helps. Any item, new or used could be donated. One person's trash is another person's treasure, and what you might think is worthless, might bring in lots of money for Dog Scouts of America.

We'll accept everything from post cards to real estate! I assure you that SOMEONE will want it, and will raise money for a good cause. Donations to the auction are tax deductible (the value of the item is the deduction). People have asked if their bidding price is a tax deduction. Unfortunately, only the amount (if any) over and above what the item is actually worth is a tax deduction (because you are actually getting something for your dollars).

If you have any questions about how you can help by donating auctions, please feel free to contact our office. You can bring or ship items to camp. The items will be auctioned off at the June and July camps. Thanks for your support!