



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Urban 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 loose leash no longer than a 6- foot line and instantly return to handler when cued.
- Dog will walk on a loose leash over an urban obstacle (i.e., bridge, sewer grate, man-hole cover)**
- Dog will perform as stay at side at an intersection until handler deems it safe to cross and then will cross the street with the handler on a loose leash.**
- Dog will perform a 'leave it' on leash with tempting trash, food, or trash can/dumpster.**
- Dog can be prevented from accosting other pedestrians, only greeting when directed by handler.**
- Dog must be able to safely meet a friendly stranger on leash.**
- Dog can pass by another dog on leash without interacting with the other dog.**
- Dog demonstrates the ability to remain calm / quickly recover when exposed to loud sudden urban noises. (Large truck horn, reversing of a commercial vehicle)**
- Dog and Handler can demonstrate the ability to use a variety of obedience cues to navigate around everyday obstacles such as with me, right, left, or over.**
- Handler always carries at least 3 dog waste bags when hiking and demonstrates responsible dog parenting by always cleaning up after their dog and other dog waste if encountered. Handler knows and follows all city ordinances regarding appropriate places for the dog to void.**
- Handler can explain when it is necessary to shorten the leash length.**
- Handler can explain proper care of paws in all seasons and can demonstrate how to tell if pavement is too hot for hiking.**
- Handler carries required items with him/her when hiking including water and a bowl for the dog, clean up bags, spare collar & leash, identification, a cell phone and a map if the area is unfamiliar.**
- Handler and dog must complete a minimum of 6 miles of hiking on leash, including one hike that is at least 2 miles.**