



TRAINING FOR URBAN HIKING:

You and your dog must adhere to all local leash laws and traffic laws. You and your dog scout should be good representatives of DSA and the Dog Scout Laws whenever you are out in public. You should research local legislation for the area you will be urban hiking in prior to venturing out.

Sudden environmental changes such as: vehicle horns, people suddenly appearing out of alleys or stores, large trucks driving by, back up beepers, crosswalk sounds, etc. are common in urban areas and when they occur may startle the dog. You should prepare your dog for such events before beginning logging miles towards this badge. An excellent way to train your dog to be comfortable with sudden environmental changes is the “Look at That” game. Here is a good link on how to teach the “Look at That” game <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdraNF2hcgA> . When startled the dog should not show extreme fear or aggression, remain under control, and recover quickly.

In some areas your dog may need to wear paw protection due to the temperature of the pavement, chemically treated walkways, or traction on slick surfaces. Also due to local legislation your dog may need to wear a muzzle. Muzzles are not necessarily an indicator of an aggressive dog nor are muzzles inherently bad. If your area or your dog requires paw protection and/or a muzzle they must be trained to be comfortable wearing these items before beginning the badge.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

For safety always use crosswalks and crossing signals when they are available. Jaywalking is never acceptable when urban hiking.

If urban hiking in warmer weather be sure to keep in mind that pavement is hotter than the air. To test if pavement is too hot for your dog and to decide if your dog needs boots simply touch the pavement with the back of your hand for seven seconds. If you can't hold out for the full seven seconds because the surface is too hot, then it's also too hot for your dog's paws. Also be sure to give your dog several breaks including offering water when urban hiking in warm weather.

If urban hiking in colder weather in areas where the pavement is treated consider having your dog scout hike using paw protection and be sure to wipe off their paws upon returning home or to your vehicle to prevent them from ingesting any chemicals.



Dog Scouts of America
Training and Safety

Urban Hiking

HELPFUL LINKS:

Popular apps for tracking your urban hiking:

WoofTrax - www.Wooftrax.com (bonus- you can list your non-profit to benefit from your miles walked)

Map My Walk - <https://www.mapmywalk.com/app>

Dog Walk Tracker -

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=br.com.cfb.dogwalktracker_dogwalker&hl=en_US&gl=US

How to measure for Boots: <https://youtu.be/fGUGSj5iD-M>

How to teach your dog to wear Boots: https://youtu.be/mz4-Y_rwi20

How to teach your dog to wear a Muzzle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5zTBFWAWBg>

Hot weather safety tips: <https://youtu.be/RUr6DRGfVvk>

Look at That game: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdraNF2hcgA>