

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America Volume 23 Issue 5 September/October 2020

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere

Katie Hoyle making the most of the Dog Days of Summer while raising awareness of the needs of Specially-abled Pets



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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
November 15th

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

Michigan Camp Use

Sadly, due to COVID-19 we have had to cancel the 2020 Leadership Retreat, Camps 1 and 2, and the Jamboree, which are normally held at the Michigan camp. However, the camp remains open for individual members to come up and enjoy a family vacation by renting one of our cabins, or RV sites. On September 25-27th, 7 members travelled to St. Helen to take part in a "Crafting Weekend" and to celebrate National Dog Scout Day.

In compliance with the executive orders of the Governor of Michigan, social distancing dictated that only 8 people could attend. Attendees paid a donation to "rent" either a 6', 8' or 9' table with electricity and a work lamp for doing crafts. We managed to spread out the tables to keep the 6' social distancing. For activities where people came closer than 6' (like the group photo), we wore masks.

Some people brought sewing machines and worked on big projects, or simply sewed merit badges onto their dogs' capes. Others did small crafts or simply relaxed putting together jigsaw puzzles. Several people shared "Make and Takes" with the others, including a DIY micro geocache, a canvas art project, and a bowl made of the fall leaves. In between our individual craft activities, we took walks in the woods amongst the beautifully colored fall leaves.

In an effort to maintain the water quality of the pond, DSA's plan was to purchase an aeration system for the pond which will bring more oxygen to the pond water. This will help the water clarity and reduce the presence of weeds, as well as help the fish thrive. Most importantly, it will greatly decrease the formation of toxic algae. Since 2020 has been such a challenging year, we had put our plans for this project temporarily on hold.

Participants watched a short video on how the aeration system works, and were given the chance to make a donation to DSA to help fund the project. All donations from the weekend will be put toward the purchase and installation of the aeration system. A total of \$1,569.00 has been raised so far, due to the generosity of the members present, and additional donations have been pledged.

If you would like to contribute to this project, your donations would be welcome.



Attitude of Gratitude

A thank you to Stacey Damm and Ruby, for their donation in memory of their friend and Dog Scout, Barrett McKelvey, from New York, who passed away recently.

Thanks to everyone who has made donations or pledges to the Michigan camp's pond aeration project. We will be installing the aerator this fall to oxygenate the pond and help prevent algae buildup.

“Engage!”

By Shirley Conley

Like a pebble dropping into the water, the ripples reach out far from the original point of entry. We hope you will become involved in community service and public education in the communities where you live, because you WILL have an impact on those around you, even if it is just by letting people observe the joy of having a well-mannered dog and being a responsible guardian.

Do you believe that DSA has a value-driven and inclusive culture? Would you say we are a positive and perhaps vital community that many dog owners are missing out on? As we push through the last quarter of 2020 and look forward to a brighter 2021, we'd like to encourage some of our 6,000 Facebook followers to engage with us on a more personal level and turn those page likes into active participants . . . For this we'll need your help, and no, you won't have to pull out a bank card for this!



Did you know that September 26 was Dog Scouts of America Day, and by extension we've claimed September as Dog Scout Awareness Month? This year we posted the great troop ads created by Kelly Dean. If you didn't see them in your feed, head over to our Facebook page to check them out. If you didn't engage, do one or more of the following:

- Comment on and share your troop's ad

- 👍 Tell how great your Troop Leader is and what they're doing to stay connected with you during the pandemic,
- 👍 Tell how fun and productive the zoom meetings are even though they took a little getting used to at first
- 👍 If you're meeting in person, tell how you're still having fun and making it work with masks and social distancing, etc.
- 👍 Mention what upcoming activity you and your dog are looking forward to



- 👍 Tag a dog-owning family member or friend if we posted an ad for a troop somewhere in their state

DSA Troop 239 ~ Who Dat Paw Patrol



If your troop didn't have an ad this year, gathering pictures for next year, so when the request is made, you'll be ready!

In October we are posting about the Dog Scout Title, we want dog owners to see that the Scout title is within their reach, and perhaps they've already got a dog that can perform the required skills, they just need to read about DSA and realize they agree with our vision and mission.

In the following months we will be posting some of the great badge-related pictures you sent in response to our request (*thank you for the pictures*). We don't want those posts to go to waste, so if you use Facebook, please help us by doing one or more of following:

Engage! (cont.)

1) **Engage with our posts**—social media algorithms look for more than just a post “like”, our posts will place higher on our followers feeds if you:

a) Comment—

- 👍 something positive and encouraging
- 👍 add a hashtag if you think there’s another audience we’ve missed—your dog’s breeder or rescue group for instance, other community groups you’re involved in thanks to your dog
- 👍 Share a picture of your dog with the badge we’ve referenced or involved in one of the skills required for the badge
- 👍 Tag a friend—someone who isn’t yet a DSA member, but whose dog could do the activity highlighted in the post
- 👍 Tag a training buddy who might enjoy training the steps with you as something fun to teach their dog even if they’re not yet a DSA member

b) Share with a comment—

- 👍 If your troop is featured—if you don’t who will?
- 👍 If your dog is featured—Facebook is **the place** to brag about your awesome dog and get away with it
- 👍 If it’s a badge you’re currently working on
- 👍 If it’s a badge you’re interested in and want to work on it in the future

2) **Snap and send** to thescoop@dogscouts.org—

- 👍 A photo of a pet-related (or human) holiday or awareness day/month
- 👍 A holiday greeting picture—e.g. Thanksgiving is coming up, 2020 has been tough for many people, take a cute picture of your dog and share one thing you’re thankful for, and/or send well wishes and holiday greetings for any annual holiday you enjoy
- 👍 Did your troop create an activity list for the remainder of the year? Do you want those activities listed as events on our Facebook page? Send a picture and the details



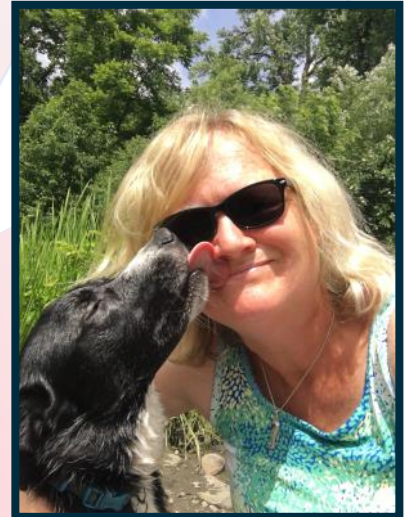
2020 has been a tough year for many people, Dog Scouts gives you an excuse to get off the couch and do something positive with your dog; but first, please take a few minutes to engage so we can encourage others to do likewise.

25th Year Camp Celebration!

by Sally Hoyle

Our year long celebration of our 25th year of camp continues, though since Michigan camps have been postponed at this point, we may celebrate our 25th year next year too. At any rate, we are continuing on with our celebration. As a reminder, on the 25th of each month we'll send an email to a lucky member and award them with a special prize. We'll choose a different reason to surprise a member every month, but you won't know what we are rewarding that month until we make the announcement. That puts everyone on a level playing field throughout the year and offers everyone the chance to win sometime in 2020. This isn't a contest. It's a way to celebrate and say thank you to our members. And our prizes are great!

Our August 25 winner was our webmaster Sonja Klattenberg and her dog Frankie. Sonja was selected as the August winner as she was the 25th person to place an order through our summer face mask fundraiser. Sonja received a DSA logo bag filled with special logo items from our camp store along with a book filled with games and tricks for her to enjoy with Frankie.



Cheryl Nava and her dog Waffle were selected as winners for September. Cheryl's name was chosen by random draw from everyone who participated in our Scrap the Summer 2020 event. Cheryl and Waffle received a \$25 badge coupon that can be applied to any of our Specialty Merit badges.



To be eligible to win prizes just keep your DSA membership current and stay active! You never know what we'll choose to reward but you can be certain that you'll hear about it on the 25th of each month. The possibilities for reward are endless! We might celebrate badges earned, fundraising for DSA, miles walked or DSA themed letterboxes or geocaches. We can pick the winner by random draw of all who meet that month's requirements or we might reward the 25th dog/handler to achieve or reach the goal. Whatever we do, the prizes will always be great! So keep an eye on your inbox on the 25th of each month to find out if you are that month's big winner!

Congratulations to Sonja and Cheryl and thank you to everyone for your continued support of DSA.

This Month in the DSA Calendar

by Sally Hoyle

We want to be sure to include dogs from all areas so we need your photos to make next year's calendar the best yet. Those of you participating in our Scrap the Summer 2020 event are taking some really great photos! We hope some of these are submitted as many of them would be just perfect for our 2021 Calendar.



September features Shelby Benson and her many years of serving as a reading dog. Shelby is pictured with Emily, a reader she first met when Emily was in kindergarten. Emily continued to visit with Shelby for a number of years and on Shelby's 115th visit, Emily was her very last reader. Shelby retired that same day. She is now 17 years old.



The October calendar page pays tribute to the 2019 Fall Jamboree. The Jamboree is an annual event that is held at the MI camp property and is open to all DSA members. This event has become a tradition for many members. In 2019 the Jamboree had a "Tail-Gate" theme and featured dog football and lawn games, and food suitable for a tailgate party.

Do you have a photo that you think would be good for the 2021 calendar?

Would you like to see your troop featured next year?

Want to celebrate your dog's special day with a photo?

Photos are accepted for submission throughout the year. Just send them to sally.hoyle@yahoo.com. Be sure to clearly identify all dogs and people in the photos that you send.

Hope to see YOUR DOG in the 2021 calendar!

Summer Badge Blast Contest Results!

by Sally Hoyle

The summer badge contest that ran June-August was a huge success and the results are in! A total of 30 people submitted badge forms for 42 dogs. These dogs earned a combined total of 124 badges! People who participated in the contest came from all parts of the country. Some engaged in badge work as a part of our “virtual camp”, Scrap the Summer 2020, and others worked individually.

Our 1st place winner Kaylene Long lives in Millington, MI and is a member of Troop 101. Kaylene’s dogs Molly and Jax earned 12 badges during the contest. These dogs have spent the last 3 months learning new things and they have spent a lot of time in the water. Both dogs earned their Puppy Paddler, Boating Safety, Canoeing, Kayaking, and SUP badges among others. Kaylene wins the coveted “30 Merit Badges before Breakfast” t-shirt that she can wear proudly to commemorate her contest win.



2nd place goes to Barrie Lynn Wood a member of Troop 217 from Goodrich, MI. Barrie Lynn worked with her dogs Moose and Bam Bam earned quite a variety of badges including K9 Fitness, First Aid, All Dog Band and others. In total they earned 8 badges. Barrie Lynn will receive 2 badge coupons that she can use on future badge submissions within the next year.

We had a tie for 3rd place! Both Elizabeth Nado from Mystic, CT and Julianne Grove from Ashaway, RI earned 7 badges with their dogs. Both dogs, Breeze and Firefly respectively, became Dog Scouts during this period making their 3rd place win extra special. Elizabeth and Julianne are both members of Troop 188 and both will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Camp Store.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that our Founder, Lonnie Olson worked with her dogs to earn 23 badges during the contest period, most with her cute little Boston Terriers, Kismet and Scallywag. Many of the badges were earned on the water, but they also accomplished things like Overnight Camping, Letterboxing 1 and Geocaching 1. Lonnie’s oldest girl Kozi, age 13 worked hard to earn a badge as well. Lonnie is ineligible to win the contest, but I did want to mention her accomplishments.

I found the contest to be personally very motivating and I worked with my girls to earn 9 badges. I’m very proud that Katie was the first dog to earn the new Disabled Dog badge and Mackenzie was the second. Katie got the patch with the gold edges because she already has a physical disability and Mackenzie got the standard turquoise. It was a fun badge to work on, but also one that teaches essential skills necessary for managing a disability.

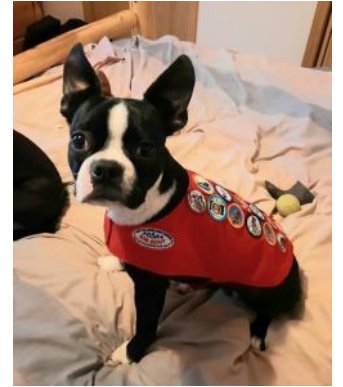
Thank you to everyone who participated in the badge contest. Though we could only have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, there were many, many people who turned in 4, 5 or 6 badge forms. There were a total of 15 dogs who became Dog Scouts during the contest, so I’m sure there will be many future badge submissions to come. Everyone who participated should be very proud of their accomplishments!

DSA Official Uniforms



We are celebrating our 25th year, and over the last 25 years costs of just about everything have gone up. The prices on our Official DSA Uniform Capes have stayed the same over all these years, but now we are forced to raise the price to pass on increased costs of materials as soon as we exhaust our supply of the capes we have on hand.

The new version of the DSA cape (*pictured right on Scallywag*) will be two-ply, and also made from 100% cotton. This means it will have a better drape, softer feel, and the construction will be neater. They are pre-washed and color fast, so they won't shrink or fade.



There will be a \$2. price increase across all sizes.

As usual, there will be a \$2.50 upcharge for a custom cape, made to your dog's measurements.



Shake your tail feathers,
mount your mask,

& get whatever gear
you need ready for

Sparky's
6th Annual Turkey Trot

We are accepting registrations for our 6th Annual Turkey Trot Fundraiser. Run, walk, backpack, ski, sled, or bike a minimum of 1 mile during the week of Thanksgiving and raise funds for DSA. The popular Five Mile Gobbler—to be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas—is being offered again this year. \$25/person for one virtual race or \$40/person for both.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/SaintHelen/Sparkys6thAnnualTurkeyTrot>

Thank you for your generous support of DSA

*A chance for fun,
learning & bonding
with your dog*

**Troop 119 is
offering two full
days of in-person
camp activities ...**

**For one handler
& dog attending
both days
— lunch is
included.**

\$150

Texas DAY Camp 2020

**November 14 & 15
YMCA Camp Carter, Ft Worth**

**8 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
each day**

**PLUS
Raffle
drawings
&
prizes**

Register online:

<https://form.jotform.com/202314697510148>

Local guidelines for group gatherings will be followed

Rainbow Bridge

Sarah Beth Ensley

I am relatively new to Dog Scouts. I had hoped to take my dog Dirk to mini camp in Texas this year, but COVID wiped that off our radar pretty quickly. I would NEVER have tried to take Sarah Beth to something like that. She came to us off the streets with many fears and she loved the quiet home life.

When I took Sarah Beth to classes as a two year old she was mortified by the noise and chaos and other dogs. We had a trainer who was very in tune with each dog. At the end of every class she asked other handlers to keep their dogs on leash till Sarah Beth exited the building and then free play was allowed. I was thankful for that, and we always respected boundaries for her, while selectively introducing new experiences. But camp was NEVER going to happen for her!

Then came 2020! My sweet girl, still afraid of cameras and loving her home life, got to go to Camp! What a treat. She and Dirk raced to the door at my lunch break to see who got to play games first. Precious times! We lost our beloved girl to a monster of a disease at the beginning of August, and we are crushed. However, I have pictures and experiences we would have never had without our Virtual DSA Camp. I will be forever grateful for these moments.

We're still trying to get back in the groove with Mighty Dirk Maus. Dirk is grieving just as we are, and so working on little bits of Scouting is good for us both as we wake up in a house with no Labrador for the first time in 40 years.

Scrap the Summer helped us make memories I will cherish. Dog Scouts of America has made a difference.

Stephanie



Annie Heideman

Jeannette and Dave—and by extension Troop 183—lost Annie unexpectedly in August.

Annie was a dear, sweet soul who never met anyone—human or beast—that wasn't her friend.

She continues to be missed daily.



Rainbow Bridge (cont.)



Kanga DSA

On August 2nd Diane Waring and Neely Bryanne sent their beloved Chihuahua, Kanga, over the Rainbow Bridge.



They didn't know how old she was when they adopted her; she was surrendered to the shelter three times for aggression, severely malnourished, and neglected, each time. Kanga just needed love. Thankfully "Get A Life Rescue" pulled her and gave her that chance. When Neely moved to Indiana from Florida, Kanga stayed with Neely's mom Diane, to live out her retirement from G Girls modeling in a quieter place.



Kanga and her sister Roo would always wear the best costumes, custom made by Diane for our Dog Scout holiday parties. Additionally, when our Troop would visit the local Assisted Living Homes, they would participate together in Pet Therapy visits. Whatever holiday it was Kanga & Roo would be dressed perfectly for that holiday and brighten the resident's day.



We will miss Kanga.

Comet DSA



We again have sad news to share, on August 16th Susan Butkis helped her Dog Scout Comet cross the Rainbow Bridge. When Susan, Comet and his sister Haley moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, Susan used the DSA website to locate and contact Troop 198.

They learned firsthand how wonderful Dog Scout camp could be as they shared their camp experiences. Comet became a Dog Scout and won the talent contest at camp in June of 2015. Susan told us about the camp classes they attended, how the counselors helped set them up for success so Comet could earn his Dog Scout title and the cherry on top was Comet winning the talent contest. They got up in front of the group, Susan called her Dad on her cell phone and, just like they did every weekend, Comet and Susan's Dad had a phone conversation, delighting the audience and judges with Dad talking human on one end and Comet talking Husky on the other.

These are pictures Susan shared of Comet at camp still wearing his backpack after a hike. God Speed Comet, we'll see you on the other side.



Scrap the Summer 2020 Reflection Assignment

One of our categories during STS 2020 was created to encourage participants to think about their dogs in a new way. Here's an example of one of the Reflections.

Ruby Damm's (Pretend) Travel Experience,

was shared by her mom, Stacey:

Ruby took the opportunity to travel to the Rocky Mountains when there is a lot of snow. Her travel companion was her friend and neighbor, Muffin, a little Havanese with a big personality. These two would have quite an adventurous trip!



Ruby and Muffin travelled by plane. Ruby loved the window seat and all the snacks. Muffin had fun too because she goes along with just about anything Ruby wants to do.

Ruby's primary goal was to track and find as many snowshoe hares as possible! She loved hiking and playing in the snow all day long while Muffin spent her days shopping and skinny-dipping in the hot tub at the lodge!

After a hard day's work of having an incredibly wonderful time chasing bunnies and playing in the snow, Ruby joined Muffin for an incredible dinner, and some fun on the town.

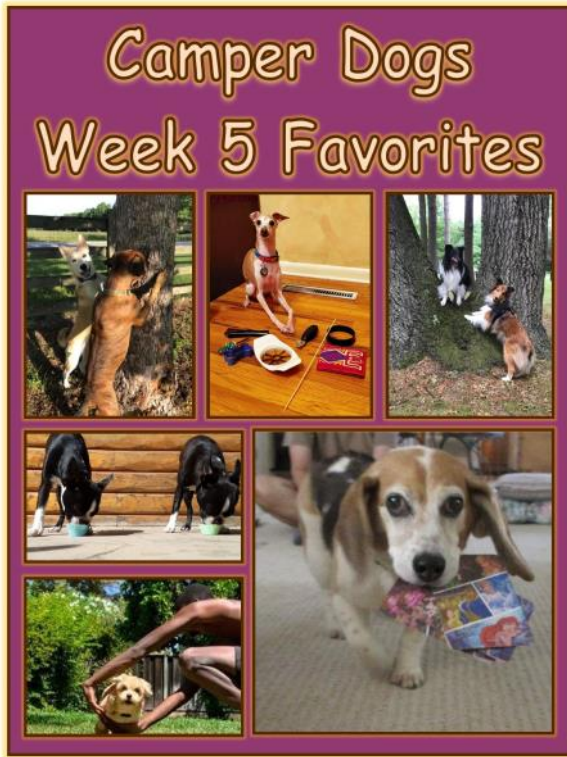
One day while chasing bunnies, Ruby detected an unusual scent, and was amazed by an enormous figure moving in the distance. She had to follow her nose to find out what that "giant bunny" must be. She tracked it and followed it and eventually caught up to it! It was an abominable snowman! It was an amazing discovery. She could hardly believe it, and she could hardly wait to get back to the lodge to tell Muffin all about it.

By the time Ruby got back to the lodge, Muffin was already out having a good time. Ruby finally caught up with Muffin and they had quite the night out. Ruby even wore her sequins and played the piano at the lodge lounge!

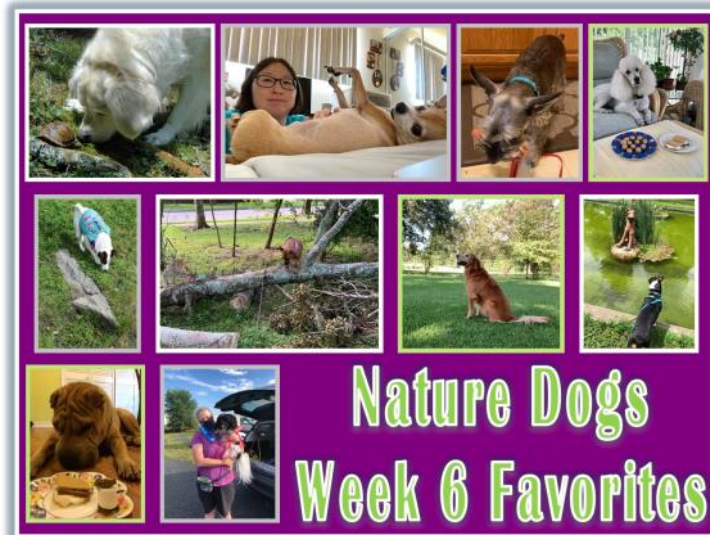


After quite an amazing trip, Ruby and Muffin flew back home. Ruby even brought home a very special souvenir for her mom. She brought her a very special snowball since she loves snow, too.

Scrap the Summer 2020—Session 2



Scrap the Summer 2020—Session 2



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Scrap the Summer 2020—Session 2



Scrap the Summer 2020—Session 2

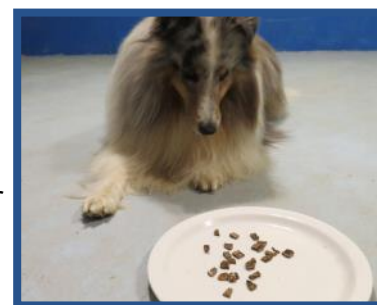


A couple of STS2020 participants shared their treat recipes with us:

Liver treats from Sharon Gruetzmacher

Take raw beef liver and fry it in a pan with a little butter. Let cool, then cut into very thin slices.

Lay on racks and put in a dehydrator until you can break them into smaller pieces. If you don't have a dehydrator, you can use your oven on a very low setting.



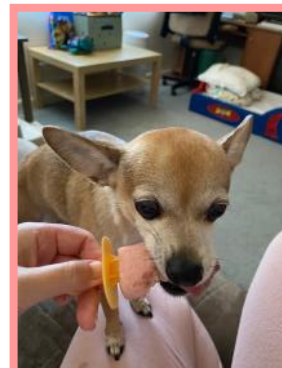
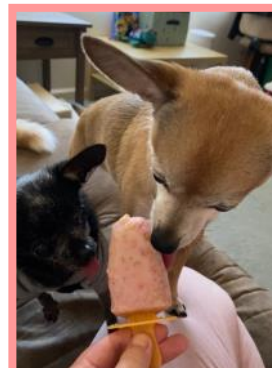
Maurice's Summer Fruit Pops! from Kristie & Maurice Iwamoto

1-1/2 cups unsweetened dairy-free coconut milk
One medium sized to large banana

Four large strawberries
Blender or food processor
Plastic or silicone popsicle molds



Slice the strawberries and bananas. Put both the strawberries and bananas into a blender or food processor and pour in the coconut milk. Blend all of the ingredients together, pour mixture into popsicle molds, and freeze. Makes about five pops. Delicious for both dogs and people!



Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 101—MI ~ Northern Michigan Trailblazers

Lonnie Olson

In August, we had an outside meeting, working on manners, obstacle three, and nose work. We practiced social distancing and wore our PPE.

In September, we met at Bay City Recreation Area State Park, for a picnic under the pavilion, and some parkour. We interacted with the community, keeping our social distance, to answer questions about Dog Scouts of America, as some of the members had their dogs wear their dog scout capes, and attracted attention. We tried to find a geocache, but the area had become wet, and we couldn't walk to it. We stopped for a photo op near the beach on beautiful Saginaw Bay.

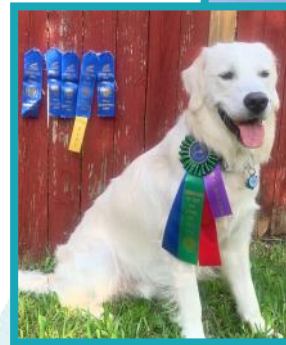


Troop 119—N TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

Troop 119 has been working on staying busy with our dogs without the benefit of monthly meetings. We are exciting that that will be changing soon as we have a fun event in the works for October when we are finally able to resume our monthly get-togethers! We are so looking forward to seeing our troop friends again!

Our troop dogs are still finding ways to stay busy this summer. Some of our water dogs have been making a big splash! Finn Kaiser earned his novice dock diving title over the Labor Day weekend. He had just 8 lessons before he entered the trial. Before that He really had never been a pool other than his little puppy pool!



And Stella Romano earned her AKC Dock Diving Novice title at the 4th of July Dallas Air Dogs trials. She also received an invite for Distance Jump to the 2020 NADD/ AKC Eukanuba National Championships in Orlando, FL!



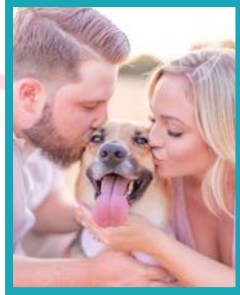
These water pups are having so much fun!

Jet & Keenan Sevens both got around to earning their Canine Good Citizens titles, although, we are quite sure they qualified long ago!

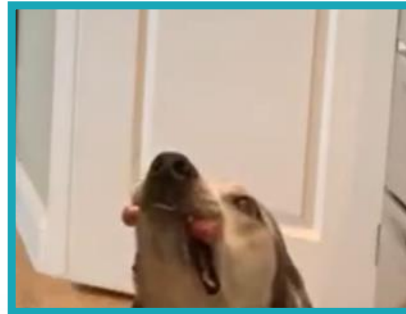
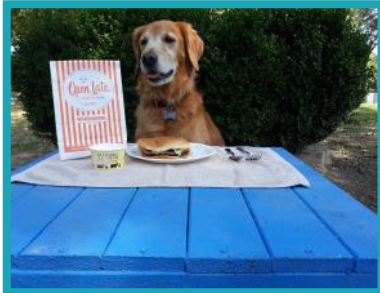


Alex Ratliff added two new merit badges to her DSA uniform – Parkour, which she's been working on for quite some time, and Fundraising – Put & Take. She's hoping to put those skills to use in lots of fun and exciting ways in the future.

Troop 119—N TX (cont.)



Oakley Whatley had a big announcement this summer! Her parents are getting married next September! Congratulations to Faith Whatley, Grant Morse and, of course, to Oakley!



Many of our troop dogs have enjoyed participating in the DSA Scrap the Summer virtual camp this summer. The organizers did a great job and they kept everyone busy learning new things.

We have a bit of sad news in that we have made the unfortunate decision to cancel Texas Mini-Camp this year due to concerns regarding the pandemic. We have had 16 years of very successful Texas Mini-Camps and we are sad to see our streak come to a temporary end for this year. However, we are planning something else to help ease the pain. Texas Day Camp 2020 will be coming November 14 and 15. It is a streamlined two-day camp full of fun and learning and bonding with our dogs. Our group will be smaller and since it's a day camp only, we will be able to safely meet and social distance. The cost is \$150 for one human and one dog and includes all the classes and activities of the day camp and lunch each day. There will also be raffle drawings and prizes. The day camp will run from 8 a.m.—5:30 p.m. each day. We still have some spots available. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/202314697510148> and join us for the fun of it!

Troop 157—FL ~ Broward County Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Our DSA Troop 157 continues to spend quality time with their pups. It has been tough not being able to do group events as much as we did last year, but we are certainly catching up on spending quality time with our pups.

Here are a few pictures of what that includes.

We had pups that took it easy and napped - can't blame them:



Grace - chilling on the cool floor



Jessie - catching a nap on the cool floor



Pepper & Peanut - snuggled in their favorite blankets



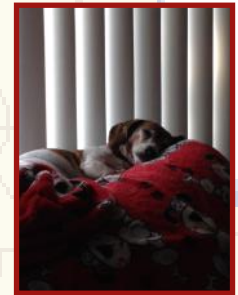
Katie - loving the bed for a nap



Lucy - found her spot on her bed for a nap



Rocky - snuggling up in bed



Ripley - favorite nap place on top of the couch

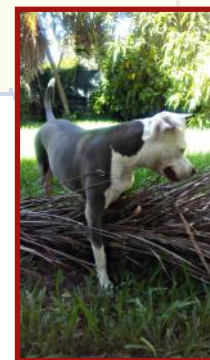
Then we had others who enjoyed the great outdoors:



Baci - learning trail markers



Sage - dressed up ready for Hawaii



Felice - hunting lizards ...

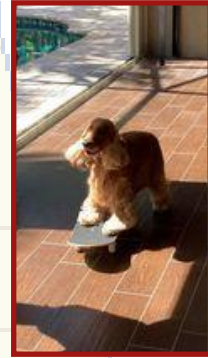
Troop 157—FL (cont.)



and Felice - rolling in the dirt



Brina Blue - exploring park trails



Amo - practicing skateboarding



Jolie - beachside walk in Costa Rica



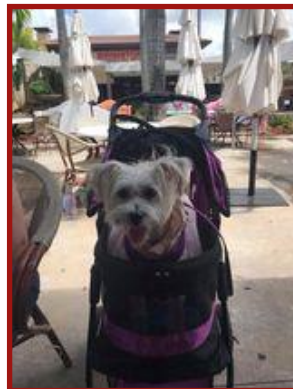
Penny - cooling off in the pool



Roxie - playing Frisbee in the park



Ripley - hanging out with the local neighborhood ducks



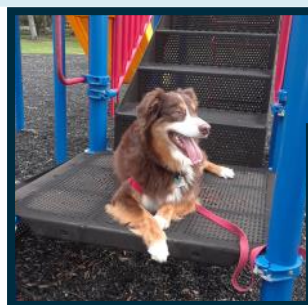
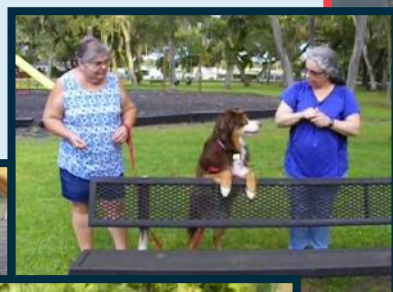
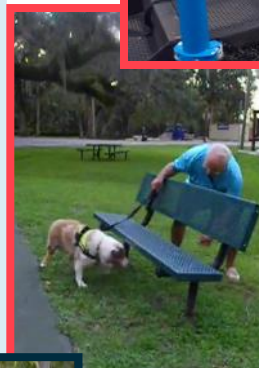
and Luna practicing her manners at a local restaurant—she has really come a long way

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

JULY—Scrapping the Summer

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we focused on activities from Scrap the Summer 2020 and managed to work a couple of sessions on the Parkour skills in between the Florida afternoon storms.



Troop 183—FL (cont.)



Thanks to all that practicing, the Conley collies earned their Parkour 1 badges . . .
Perhaps they need to practice sharing too!

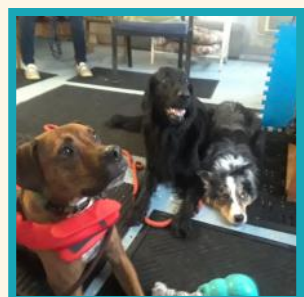
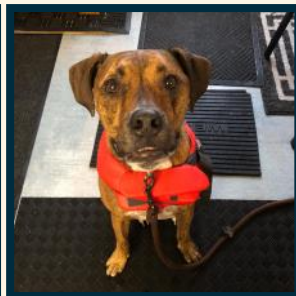
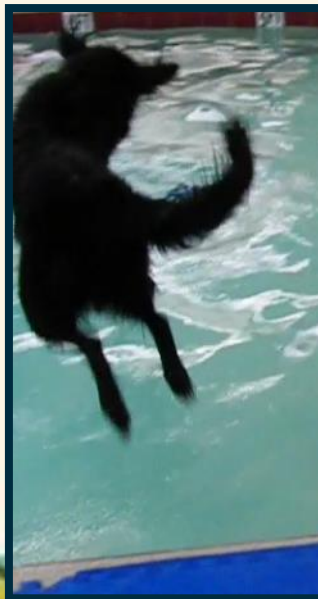
AUGUST — Water Puppies

We attempted another afternoon of swimming at Hip Dog Hydrotherapy, but the Florida afternoon was true to form and we were interrupted with lightning and the clouds opened to dump water on us.



While waiting for the rain to ease up so we could get back to our vehicles, we worked on “leave-it” and “stay”. The dogs didn’t care about the rain, but they did care about having to get out of the pool due to the lightning.

Some pouted more than others!



Troop 188—Ledyard CT

Sheri Throop



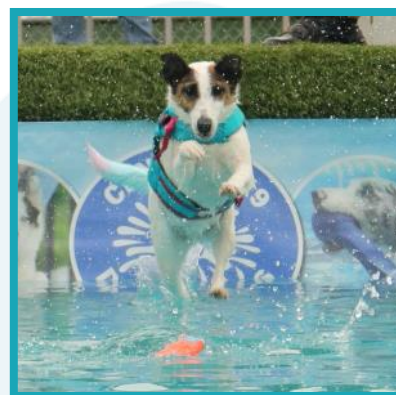
Welcome to Fall! This summer was full of different activities even though we were separated from each other.

Troop 188 has been very busy since our 188 Day celebration in July. The Troop would like to congratulate our newest Dog Scouts, Major, Breeze, Firefly and Sass. These 4 new Scouts participated in a Dog Scout Badge workshop that was cut short by the pandemic but the scouts soldiered on finishing via Zoom and one on one socially distanced encounters.



Breeze and Firefly not only earned their DSA title but each of them earned a total **seven** badges earning them a tie for third place in the Summer Badge Contest.

These two diving scouts lead the way as Troop 188 Scouts, earning badges in the areas of Agility, Dog Sports, Water Activities, Tricks, Nosework, and Trail activities while following the pandemic guidelines for our area.

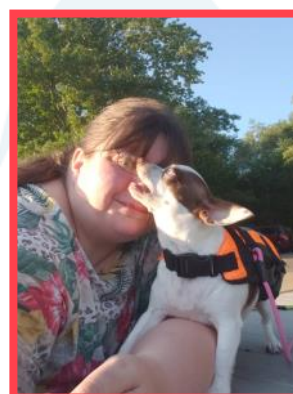


Breeze and Firefly were also active in Dock Diving competing in several events during the summer, both earning invitations to the Regional and National events to be held in October.



Another troop member, Flynn spent his time in and on the water this year working on his SUP and Kayaking badges while earning 3 merit badges.

It wasn't only the dogs who earned new things with our Troop member Julianne earning her Scoutmaster while helping Sass to obtain her DSA.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

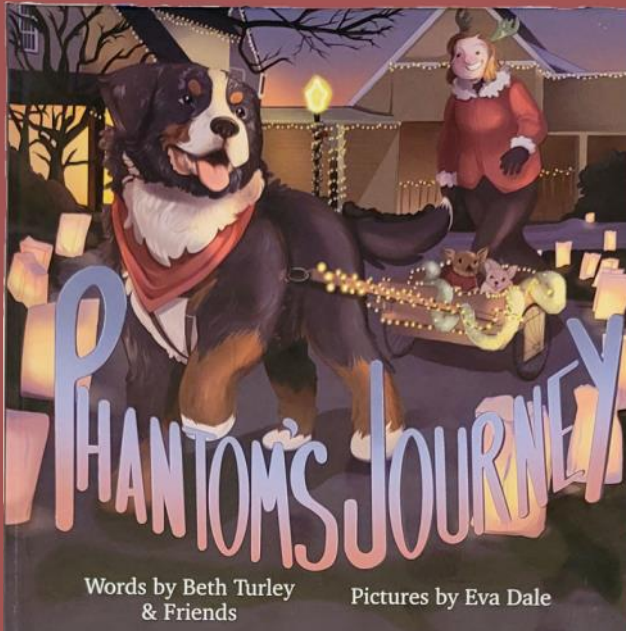
Three of our troop families participate in the first virtual camp event, Scrap the Summer. It was a great way to learn about the new Disabled Dog badge and connect with DSA campers across the country. Hands on activities, crafts and puzzles kept us busy through July and August. The digital scrapbooks will be a cherished memory of the summer that went by so fast. It will be fun to share our new skills with the rest of the Troop as soon as we can get together.



Troop members, Trudy and Al, known as High Tide debuted a song written by Trudy about Dog Scouts on a recent episode of Lauren's Crazy Pet Show. Please take a moment to watch the segment where Trudy talks about her dogs, music and Dog Scouts. The Dog Scout Song has been posted to youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp_4VpZLwyM

There is a new addition to library at Dog Scout Camp entitled **Phantom's Journey**. Donated to the Camp library by Troop 188, this book is the story of a member of Troop 188, Phantom, and his life's journey. Written as a children's book, the lessons within are important for everyone.



Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Michelle Lake, a member of Troop 188, and her Dog Scout Phantom completed over 749 therapy visits before Phantom crossed the rainbow bridge.

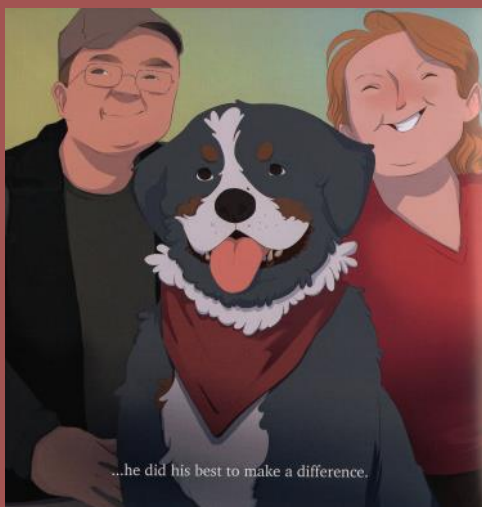
Phantom and Michelle touched a lot of people. Some of these folks wanted to make sure that Phantom and all he did would not be forgotten and thus was born the children's book **Phantom's Journey** written by Beth Turley and Friends and illustrated by Eva Dale.

The book tells the story of Phantom and how a dog who was not perfect still made a positive difference. Dog Scouts of America is mentioned as helping him along the way. Phantom was a founding member of Troop 188 and very active with the troop and in his community. Phantom's activities are shown in wonderful illustrations by Eva Dale. What is special about this illustrator is that these illustrations were done while Eva was a high school senior as part of her senior project. These wonderful images of Phantom and his life truly capture the spirit of Phantom. Eva finished the project despite the COVID-19 pandemic throwing up roadblocks. Eva's talent and perseverance were rewarded as the illustrations caught the attention of some important people. Eva received a generous scholarship due in part to the talent she showcased in **Phantom's Journey**. I like to think that this is just one more way Phantom made a difference.

Copies of Phantom's Journey are available at bit.ly/Phantom'sJourney. All profits from this book are supporting Forever in my Heart Foundation, a charity that turns shelter dogs into service animals for disabled veterans. It brings us joy that Phantom is still making a difference.



This is when Phantom would walk in his hometown holiday light parade, pulling a wagon of his Chihuahua friends, Pirate and Truffles.



Troops 198 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

For the months of July and August, several members of our group attended the Scrap The Summer virtual Dog Scout camp and what a great time we all had, we learned new things, made new friends and really bonded with our dogs as we participated in the camp activities.

During camp, Susan and Wyatt met and learned about Dog Scouts from all over the country as well as England!

Donna's Wishbone worked hard at learning to leave these tasty treats spelling out "CAMP", he sure looks cute doing his Leave It.



Chris and Pearl loved their ShinRin-Yoku walks and here they combined their walk with some Parkour as Pearl looks gorgeous doing two paws up in the forest.



Lu Lu and Teresa showed talent and a sense of fun in this picture of her Majesty Lu Lu demonstrating four paws up for the Parkour badge.



One of the camp craft projects was paw print art. Ruth's Kobi not only showed great talent in his creation, he was dressed in style while doing so, C'est Magnifique!



Maurice was a good sport when, for the camp scavenger hunt Item # 8, he allowed mom, Kristie, to place a cut out of the California state butterfly, the Dog Face Butterfly, on his head, such a good little guy!



Troop 198—CA (cont.)



Lennie and Sadie had lots of bonding time during camp, here is Sadie kicking back at the end of the day enjoying an evening by the fire making s'mores and showing of her Parkour skills with a two paws up at the fire pit.



Wyatt liked toasting and eating marshmallows during camp.



Duncan like toasting marshmallows too, but was just as quick to eat them before toasting as after toasting.

One of our activities was to pick a person that we and our dogs would like to go camping with for a week on a deserted island and describe what we would do and talk about with that person. Carlotta, Bailey and Crystal picked Carlotta's daughter Crystal, someone they just can't get enough of for their trip!



In addition to virtual Dog Scout Camp, Bailey and Crystal have been winning ribbons right and left in dock diving with Doggone Dirty Dog Sports, just look at all of Bailey's ribbons, WOW!



And if you thought Bailey's ribbons were impressive, check out what Crystal raked in - the Mighty Dog award!



And just before camp, Bailey and Crystal became the proud parents of their first litter of puppies, AWWW!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



We have had a few in person trainings practicing social distancing, this is Dog Scout Asia and Cadet Elton at Santana Mall.



Cadet Tacoma, and Dog Scouts Rusty and Palo got to do some training at Santana Mall too.



Cadets Wishbone and June worked on their Dog Scout test stay at Santana Mall.

At our monthly training, newcomers Kathy and Murphy enjoyed their first taste of Dog Scouts— it looks like Yeti is going in for a taste of Murphy's treat!



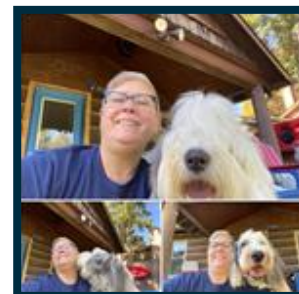
Cadet Tribble on the platform and brother Cadet Yeti knocked off a few more items on their Dog Scout test at training and mom Blake, (not pictured) turned in her written test, they are oh-so-close! In the background is Andrea and Gnocchi' tail off to the right, this is their fourth time attending a Dog Scout training session; they are having a great time learning about Dog Scouts!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has been very challenged by COVID-19 as we struggled to find ways to get together as a troop and keep everyone safe while being in compliance with the orders of the Governor of Michigan. We have a number of high-risk individuals and cannot risk anyone's health. For us right now, Zoom is the answer!

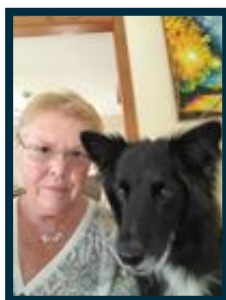
Currently in our Zoom troop meetings we have begun to have special teaching sessions so that the troop can work together on the Disabled Dog badge. We invited our neighboring Northern Michigan troop to join us as we work on this new badge and are happy to have many of them present as well. After a recent Zoom session, everyone was asked to send Sunday selfies to share.



Sunday selfies with Katie, Sam and Mackenzie

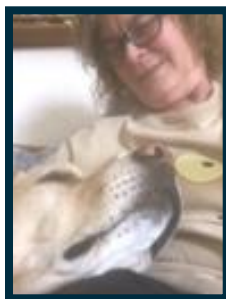


Julie Benson and Shelby

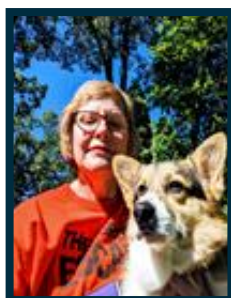


Laurie Keel and Booker

Recently, we met with Cub Scouts from Georgia—also via Zoom—to work with them on dog care and nutrition, and to teach them about dogs who assist humans in different ways, including Service, Therapy, and Military Police dogs among others. The boys asked great questions and were very interested in dogs who do things like clear geese from airport runways and do search and rescue work. They were also very surprised to learn that dogs can help other dogs by being blood donors! The boys asked to see some dog tricks and even showed us some of the tricks their own dogs can do.



Fay Reid and Goldy

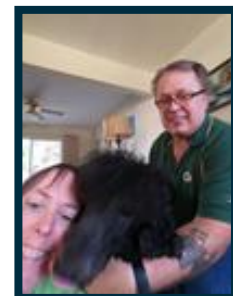


Diane Baughman and Jaxson

Many of our members participated in the recent Scrap the Summer event and had fun completing the challenges and teaching their dogs new skills. We all look forward to the next "virtual camp"!



Martha Thierry and Maia



Cheryl and Bob Ashford and Matty

Sunday Selfies



Barrie Lynn Wood, Moose and Bam Bam

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts
Yahoo Discussion List:
pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList
Instagram: [#dogscoutsofamerica](https://www.instagram.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 — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com
(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: Barrie Lynn Wood and Cyndi Stone — 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: **Chris Kloski** — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

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Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com
Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Dean — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com
(Also for competition registration numbers)

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

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(Also for newsletter distribution)