



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

Rock Solid Recall

PURPOSE: To improve the handler's ability to rely on the dog to return when called under ANY conditions and to strengthen the human/canine bond. The skills required are learned and practiced using positive training and techniques that help to improve impulse control. It is not the purpose of the badge to set up situations where the dog is sure to be successful, but rather to demonstrate the dog's real-world skills with recall under conditions that may be challenging for the dog. Though this badge stands on its own, it is designed to work hand-in-hand with the Ultimate Leave It badge as both are critical skills that need to be developed and worked on over the course of the dog's lifetime.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: For most of the requirements, it is important that the dog is not asked to stay and then called to the handler. The "recall gauntlet" is the only requirement when the dog may be asked to stay. Using the word stay implies to the dog that he will subsequently be asked to come. This level of recall is the basic standard for the Dog Scout test and the requirements for the Rock Solid Recall move well beyond this. For this badge, the dog will be asked to recall when he is engaged with distracting environments and/or situations, such as when he is on an off-leash hike and has moved ahead of the handler or when involved in any activity where he is happily participating. The dog is expected to respond and return to the handler immediately, without lagging, the first time he is called.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler must be able to take non-aversive steps to train the Rock Solid Recall and must be able to describe how they carry out their training. Handler may not artificially create situations where the dog performs the requirements for the badge but must demonstrate the skills using real world examples. The recall gauntlet is the only requirement where an artificial set up may be used. By working to earn this badge with the dog, the handler agrees to commit to life-long practice of the required skills.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: High and low-value treats, toys, animatronic animals and other dog safe items are needed for the recall gauntlet. Dog must wear a buckle or limited slip (martingale) collar or harness. Some skills may be demonstrated in a fenced area, such as a backyard, or using a long line for safety. Handler must follow the guidelines for using a long line to the letter and the evaluator has the final say on when a long line is or isn't required. Mats or other training aids may be used during the training process only.

PROCESS: The Rock Solid Recall trains your dog that he must ALWAYS come immediately when called no matter what. However, there may be some situations where a long line should be used for safety. These may include situations where a highway is close by or where heavy equipment may be in use, or where a leash is required. If a long line is used, it may never be allowed to tighten before the dog is called back. Additionally, the handler may not pull on the leash or move it in any way to communicate to the dog that he should return. This is not a militant recall, but rather a simple demonstration of the dog responding to the handler without fail when cued, as would happen in daily life. The evaluator will watch carefully if a long line is used to ensure it is used as described.

ALLOWED:

- ☐ Flat or limited slip collar or harness
- ☐ Long line, used as directed
- ☐ Mats or other training aids
- ☐ A whistle may be used as a cue

NOT ALLOWED:

- ☐ Leashes
- ☐ Use of any item that is not dog safe
- ☐ Repeated or excessive cues
- ☐ Long line when used inappropriately
- ☐ The "stay" cue, except as described
- ☐ Artificial set up, except for the recall gauntlet