



## Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

### Tunnelers

**PURPOSE:** The Tunnelers badge is designed to be fun for both handler and dog, while building a foundational understanding of an agility course and working to continually build trust and respect between the human and canine partner.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** Dog must move through the required Tunnelers course, remaining under the control of the handler and completing the course with flow. Two successful runs are required. Dogs may not damage or destroy any equipment used, including the cones numbering the course.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** Handler must understand the safety concerns of this activity and how to appropriately warm up and cool down the dog. Handler moves the dog through the course, demonstrating solid course management, maintaining control of the dog, moving the dog with flow and avoiding diminishing drive. Handler assists with course set up and tear down as directed and follows any rules established by the club or facility hosting the event.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** An appropriate indoor or outdoor facility, 7 tunnels of varying lengths, 2 sets of 3 hoops (see map included) and numbered cones used to identify obstacles are needed for this badge. If necessary, one set of hoops may be replaced with the UKC hoop tunnel.

**PROCESS:** Course is set by the instructor/evaluator (with handler assistance as directed) and includes the required obstacles, a distance line which the handler must not cross, and a tunnel discrimination challenge for the dog. The instructor/evaluator will review safety considerations and review aspects of course management with participants. Tunnel training may or may not be offered. The instructor/evaluator will schedule dogs to run the course, ensuring that each dog runs the course twice.

#### ALLOWED:

- ☐ Collars or close-fitting harnesses
- ☐ Handler encouragement
- ☐ More than 1 attempt
- ☐ Alternative course design

#### NOT ALLOWED:

- ☐ Restrictive harnesses
- ☐ Any aversive action
- ☐ Failure to complete course in flow
- ☐ Any “simplification” of course design
- ☐ Damage or destruction of equipment
- ☐ Use of treats on course even to practice (specifically on DSA property)