

Dog Scouts of America

Dog Scout Badge Check-off / Test

All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward based methods. Handler can use verbal cues and hand signals when checking off on the DSA badge. **If sending a video, items in blue need to be shown on the video.**

- ___ Handler manages dog's environment to keep the dog feeling safe
- ___ Handler can explain when to use the phrase, "please get your dog back" or "please stay back"
- ___ Handler can explain how to encourage a proper greeting behavior between dogs
- ___ Handler understands that aggression is normal dog "language", and can explain how to help the dog make other choices (attention to owner)
- ___ Handler can explain proper leash handling techniques to discourage aggression
- ___ Handler understands the use of and can name 3 calming/negotiation signals
- ___ **Handler understands and agrees that the "leave it" cue is something they must work on the dog's entire life. For the test, the food and "other animal" needs to be something the dog clearly shows he/she really wants to get. If the dog has no interest in food or other animal, two other objects the dog desires such as toys, dogs, people, etc can be used. The two items should be tested separately. The dog will pass close enough to get the item and the leash must remain loose. Each of the items needs to have 3 passes that meet the above criteria or a ratio of 3 correct passes for each incorrect pass.**
 - ___ **Leave it with Food**
 - ___ **Leave it with animal**
- ___ Handler can explain the value of helping the dog make good choices using indirect access
- ___ Handler can list two indirect access exercises
- ___ **Dog is safe and comfortable with strangers in normal circumstances with handler support and management**
- ___ **Dog is safe and comfortable being near other dogs on leash and off leash if handler feels it is safe and manages the environment**
- ___ **Dog demonstrates an understanding of heel position and a heel cue and will choose to maintain heel position keeping the leash loose during a heeling pattern that includes a left, right and U-turn, a distance of at least 20 feet.**
- ___ **Dog can sit when handler stops at least 2 times while heeling (leash tightening is not part of the cue)**
- ___ **Dog will sit at least 2 times in response to a verbal cue or hand signal while not heeling and leash must remain loose**
- ___ **Dog will lie down at least 2 times in response to a verbal cue or hand signal and leash must remain loose**
- ___ **Dog will come directly to the handler 2 times when called from a distance of at least 20'. It is the handler's choice whether the exercise is performed on or off leash. If on leash the dog will be on a long line and drag the line with the evaluator holding the line.**
- ___ **Dog will stay in either a sit or a down position, while handler walks about 20' away and returns to the dog close enough to put a hand on the collar (walking around dog to heel not required)**
- ___ **Handler will have at least two plastic bags to clean up after their dog at all times when dog is with them**
- ___ Handler promises to pick up dog's waste and dispose of it properly
- ___ Handler can explain the Dog Scout laws in their own words and promises to uphold them

NOTE: The DSA Badge is not a "walk-in" testing situation. Evaluator must observe the dog on 3 different occasions to complete the DSA badge. The evaluator cannot observe the dog on one day and check off on the all of the behaviors. It is the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that the dog meets all of the requirements listed above before checking them off on this badge.