

Thanks for your interest in our troop! Below, I have included some information about our troop and Dog Scouts of America (D.S.A.). If you have any questions, please email me at pawsitiveresults@comcast.net or call me at (707) 292-5862.

About Us

Our troop is known as the Whine Country Woofers. We serve all of Sonoma County. We are a group of dog owners who are dedicated to teaching our dogs to be the best they can be using positive training methods and fun activities. We have monthly meetings that include activities such as hikes, participation in local dog-friendly events, fun games, training opportunities, and working on earning badges. The days, times and locations of the meetings vary, so call for details about upcoming events.

Your dog does not need to be an obedience champion to join. As long as you are dedicated to working toward a dog that is well behaved in public and you agree to uphold the Dog Scouts Laws, we welcome you! However, for safety's sake & in order to make the best impression on the general public, only dogs that have shown a reasonable amount of control are allowed to participate in "public activities" in which the dogs will be representing Dog Scouts of America and our troop.

Our troop rules are as follows:

1. Troop members must abide by the Dog Scout Laws (see below).
2. Human aggression will not be tolerated. Any dog that shows human aggression will be barred from troop activities until a certified dog trainer has worked with the dog and handler and determined that they are both capable of safely participating in troop activities. Dogs that are fearful of people but that have not shown aggression are welcome to participate in troop activities as their comfort level allows. Handlers of fearful dogs must explain their dog's issues/needs to the group and all participants must respect the dog's needs. Handlers of fearful dogs must be constantly vigilant and ready to intervene to prevent problems from arising.
3. Dogs that have a history of attacking and injuring other dogs will not be allowed to participate in troop activities unless a certified dog trainer has worked with the dog and handler and determined that they are capable of safely participating in troop activities. Dog-reactive dogs are welcome to participate in troop activities that do not elicit reactive behavior. Handlers must explain their dog's issues/needs to the group and all participants must respect the dog's needs. Handlers of dog-reactive dogs must be constantly vigilant and ready to intervene to prevent problems from arising.
4. Children ages 10 years and up are welcome to participate in troop activities under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian (one child per adult). Children must be able to follow all of the troop rules and behave safely around all of the dogs.

How to Join

Membership in Dog Scouts of America is required to participate in troop activities. Dues for DSA are \$25 per year for the first participating human of the household and \$5 for each additional participating human (you can have as many dogs participating as you like!). To pay DSA dues, go to www.dogscouts.org and click on 'membership application'. There are no fees to join the troop- each member will be responsible for their own expenses for any activities in which they participate.

Prospective members will be invited to attend one or two troop activities to see if you are a good fit for the group. If you are invited to join our troop, you will then need to become a member of the national organization. Anyone is welcome to join DSA, even if they do not join a troop. Please check out the DSA website at www.dogscouts.org for more information on DSA and lots of great training tips.

The Dog Scout Laws:

1. My dog must be safe with people and other dogs. I will always be courteous when I am with my dog in public. We will set good examples of a responsible parent and a well-trained dog. I will socialize my puppy and continue the socialization through out his or her life so that he or she will not fear novel stimuli, strange people or new dogs.
2. My dog must be well mannered, so that he or she will be accepted in public places. I understand and accept responsibility for teaching my dog proper manners using non-abusive methods like positive reinforcement training.
3. My dog should not be allowed to eliminate in an unseemly manner. I will refrain from letting my dog urinate on buildings, statues or other people's things, and I promise to always carry plastic bags and clean-up supplies to pick-up fecal matter. In an effort to reduce the negative impact of irresponsible dog parents, I will make attempts to educate, provide clean-up bags to and clean-up dog waste left by those less educated in responsible dog parenting.
4. I must obey leash laws and other rules when accompanying my dog to a park, business or other place where dogs are allowed. In an effort to reduce the number of places that refuse admittance to dogs, I will not let my dog be a nuisance and will keep my dog under control at all times. I will not allow my dog to harass wildlife. I will be familiar with and obey any laws regarding my dog such as license requirements, travel safety and vaccination documentation. I will not represent my Dog Scout in a way that will mislead the public regarding his or her right to accompany me in public places.
5. My dog should be helpful whenever he or she can be and I will utilize my dog's skills to allow the dog to assist with certain tasks and become more helpful. I promise to have my dog learn all that he or she can.
6. My dog should never be tied up and left unattended. I understand that I am unable to protect my dog from harm if he or she is tied in place where people and animals can harass him or her. I also understand that attaching a dog to a fixed object can cause location guarding and increase the chances of a person being bitten. I promise to never leave my dog in a vehicle unattended if there is any chance he or she could get hot, cold or be harassed or injured by humans or other animals.
7. I will always show kindness and caring toward my dog, so that others can observe the joys of responsible and loving dog parenting and appreciate the bond between my well-behaved dog and myself.
8. I will provide basic care for my dog. I will strive to feed my dog the best food I can afford and to educate myself about why some dog foods are better than others. I understand that keeping my dog at an optimum weight will reduce the chances of disease and injury. I will provide the maintenance that my dog needs to be healthy and comfortable. I will keep my dog clean and well groomed, including nail trimming. I will make my dog a member of the family and not subject him or her to living alone outside full time. I will create at least a basic emergency care plan for my dog in case I am hurt or otherwise unable to care for my dog. My dog will always have some form of identification.
9. I will strive to travel safely with my dog contained in a crate that is attached to the vehicle or in an accident rated seatbelt designed for dogs. This will help keep the dog safe during travel, will reduce the distractions I have while driving and could save my dog's life in an accident.
10. I will strive to live by the Dog Scout Parent's motto: "Our dogs' lives are much shorter than our own, let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can." I will help my dog uphold the Dog Scout motto: "Let us learn all that we can, so that we may become more helpful."