

Welcome to the 2021 Boone County 4H Dog Obedience Project!

Your leadership and training teams are looking forward to an exciting year of fun and fellowship. This will be an opportunity to make new friends and build an even stronger bond with your dog. We look forward to welcoming you back with several of the previous year's activities. We are also excited to start with some new great ways to assist you in being even more successful.

We know that the Dog Project can seem overwhelming, so we hope that the information in this binder will provide you guidance on the Project requirements as well as what to expect and helpful tips for your success. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Dog Obedience Project Requirements:

While there are many activities in which to participate throughout the Dog Obedience Project season, there is 1 requirement that must be met to successfully complete the Dog Obedience Project.

- To complete the Dog Obedience Project, you must:
 - Turn in a completed record sheet
- To show your dog in the Boone County Fair Dog Judging, you must:
 - Have a vaccination sheet completed by your veterinarian (before bringing dog to practice).
 - Successful completion of 3 Skillathon stations.
 - Turn in completed record sheet

What's new for 2021:

Training will be fresh and new every week. We will be doing training in sessions. Most trainings we will have 3 or 4 different stations. We will begin each training with a few minutes of heeling work. We will follow that with 3 or 4 sessions 15 minutes each station. If there is a station in which you and your dog are particularly successful, you can skip that station and train longer in a station where you need more work. The stations are as follows:

- Station 1 – Stay
- Station 2 – Exam
- Station 3 - Recall
- Station 4 - Alternate between Rally and Showmanship for those training in one or both of those 2 disciplines.
- There will be some nights that we stay until 8:30 when we are offering Agility for those interested in training that activity.
- Learn to play obedience games with your dog

The goal for breaking out the training in this fashion is to:

- Bring something fresh and new for the trainers, members, and dogs as it allows members to try out all the new exercises.
- Assist with the flow of trainers who may need to miss a session occasionally.
- Allow for younger members to watch and be assisted by older more experienced members.
- Give the trainers working that station the ability to continue to train the group while another trainer is assisting a member who may need some one-on-one teaching.
- Hopefully, it will give busy families more flexibility for attendance.
- Allow us the option to bring new events to the program such as educational activities and guest trainers.

Dates to remember:

- March – 1st and 2nd year members will start the Project.
- April - 3rd year members and above will start the Project joining the 1st and 2nd year members.
- July – 4H Dog Judging show and Dawg Days will be the last 2 days of the Fair!

What stays the same:

- We will again have an all-county Dress Rehearsal in May.
- We will be using the Skillathon teaching tool as our educational completion component. Four different Skillathon topics (stations) will be offered. You will be required to complete 3 out of the 4 offered to show your dog.
- We were so pleased with the success of the members working with the public during our Dawg Days at the Fair; we will again be doing many activities during this time.
- The season winds up with your optional participation in the fun 2-day event at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show in July/August.

We are so happy to welcome back our returning members along with meeting our new members. We look forward to a great year! Please feel free to contact your leadership team with any questions, comment or ideas.

Go Boone Dawgs!