

Something to Howl About

APRIL 2023

PATRIOT PUPPY PRESS

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Happy Spring!
Joyce with Maverick



It's back!

The Smoky Mountain Service Dogs 2023 Golf Challenge is back for 2023. The event will take place on Saturday, 24 June at the Tellico Village Toqua Golf Course. Registration will open on 1 May 2023. Watch for details and registration forms on the SMSD web site, Facebook page and at Tellico Village golf shops.

Want to volunteer for the event? Contact Carla Navas at carla.n@smokymountain servicedogs.org.

Want to play in the event? Grab a registration form on 05/01/2023 and come out and have some fun!

Romano Sims

Romano.s@smokymountain servicedogs.org



Graduate Updates

Our newest recipient, First Responder Dawnie, has been on the go with SMSD Hondo! At the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2023 conference, Hondo's credentials seem to grow! He was adorned with ribbons for "Member," "Anthropology," and even "International Attendee"!

Hondo had his first experience with airline travel. He escorted Dawnie and Ryan to Washington D.C. for the AAAS - The American Association for the Advancement of Science meetings. With a few spare hours they found time to visit some notable sights as well.



Congratulations Charley Jordan of Jordanfarmstn for being awarded the Personal Courage Award.

Charley Beekeeper - The Adventure Never Stops!



Chuck and Sadie speaking at
UT Army ROTC



Brad with Jumper leading
MOPH meeting



We love hearing and seeing what our recipients and their SMSDs are up to.
Keep those letters and pictures coming!

KENNEL NEWS



Please welcome our new part-time Assistant Trainer - Melissa Marti! Melissa has been a valuable volunteer with SMSD, serving as a puppy raiser, socializer and weekend respite provider. Melissa will be a super asset to our full time Staff Trainers. Her main role will be to handle dogs of all ages and levels of training that need specific practice of their skills in a home and public environment while she advances her knowledge about animal behavior and how to apply positive reinforcement training techniques.

Our Staff Trainer Cassie has decided to make a career change but she has graciously agreed to remain with us on a part-time basis while we search for another full-time trainer. Cassie has been a valuable asset to our puppy program in particular and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors. We are very grateful she will be staying on during this transition period. We'll miss you, Cassie!!



We have three new puppies in our program this quarter!!



Hero Labradors donated Silas and Wylie



Country Goldens donated River II.
Thank You to Sponsor
Thompson Charitable Trust

We are proud to have been able to host a phenomenal continuing education class in partnership with UTCVM, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

The participants in this course come from a variety of backgrounds but canine fitness is important for every dog's life, especially our service dogs.

We had fun with a fantastic group of canine professionals and are proud of how much they progressed in their knowledge of the dog and how to help them reach their fitness goals.

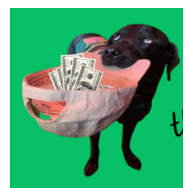
Check out the Trainer Tips on Facebook each Tuesday. Quick tips and reminders to help with training.

Find all this plus the latest news and information about the dogs in our program, graduates, fundraisers and gifts from sponsors. Facebook is also where you'll find out about our Passing of the Leash celebrations as soon as the dates are available. <https://www.facebook.com/smokymountainservicedogs>



Congratulations to our Junior Ambassador Winston! He has been training to assist Hooligan in his duties and is doing a super job! He looks pretty handsome in his new vest too, doesn't he?

Canine Ambassador Hooligan celebrated his 9th birthday March 24. He has been a big help in showing Winston the ropes and how to effectively "pass the hat."



NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM

Spotlight on SMSD Volunteer Co-Puppy Raisers

Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD) depends greatly upon the volunteer spirit and generosity of the community to support its efforts in providing well-qualified service dogs to veterans. A critical volunteer role is raising a puppy for a 9-12 month time period. Puppies may be co-raised with another volunteer. We have had several co-puppy raising partnerships including, Renee King and Debbie Lathrop, who raised Oak; Carole Martin and Debbie Lathrop, who raised Honor; and Andee Raker and Ginger Stone currently raising Wylie. These experienced puppy raisers have shared with us a few of the positive aspects of this unique experience.

1. Having a partner in the learning process to encourage and mentor each other based on individual strengths and weaknesses is critical. There is an increased learning curve when a new volunteer is paired with an experienced puppy raiser.
2. Flexibility in the schedule, allowing time for other family responsibilities. After the time off from puppy duty, the volunteer can feel recharged. As partners, you support each other creating the schedule that best fits your lifestyles.
3. Keys to success include communicating regularly to discuss new skills and training issues. Asking each other for suggestions.
4. Benefits for the puppy include an increase in the puppy's exposure to social encounters and different environments.
5. On a personal note, new friends are made through this process.
6. Ultimately the veteran and first responder recipients benefit through this process.

What Heather Wilkerson, SMSD Program Manager, has to say about sharing the puppy raising responsibilities:

"As the co-puppy raising program evolved, I realized the advantages this special arrangement offered our volunteers, as well as our young dogs in training. The puppy teams realize the importance of continuity in handling and training, so they communicate regularly. I want to thank all our puppy raisers and offer special thanks to those who were willing to participate in the pilot program. You all made me believe in this and our young dogs benefited from it. Many thanks to our puppy foster coordinator, Deb Scarrietta. Deb consistently does an excellent job pairing our co-puppy foster teams"

What Deb Scarrietta, SMSD Puppy Foster Coordinator, has to say:

Hats Off to our Puppy Raisers! The dedication and commitment our puppy raisers demonstrate along with their incredible patience is awe i inspiring. I encourage anyone thinking about raising a puppy to consider raising with a friend or family member. If you think you may be interested but don't have a partner, please let me know and I'll fix you up! If you are interested in coming to a puppy class or talking about our puppy program, please call me on 845-206-8267. Also, feel free to share my number with anyone outside the organization who may be interested.



DEB SCIARRETTA WITH SMSDit Silas



Debbie Lathrop & Renee King with SMSDit Oak



Carole Martin & Debbie Lathrop with SMSDit Honor



Ginger Stone & Andee Raker with SMSDit Wylie

NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM

Spotlight on SMSD Volunteer Ellen Furlong, Respite Coordinator

Ellen Furlong has been a volunteer with SMSD for nine years. Her volunteer roles include weekend respite coordinator, socializer, transporter, kennel care, and community events. As volunteer respite coordinator, she communicates with trainers and respite volunteers to host a kennel or foster dog in their home. Ellen's career as an Air Force civilian gave her the desire to continue contributing after retirement to help veterans. Ellen's love for dogs has included involvement in pet therapy programs, socializing at a nursing home facility, dog agility, and volunteering for another service dog organization before moving to Tennessee. Working with SMSD is her passion, and she always learns something new from trainers. Ellen remembers every dog that has been at the end of her leash. Thank you Ellen Furlong for supporting the SMSD Mission!



Ellen Furlong with Winston, Junior Canine ambassador

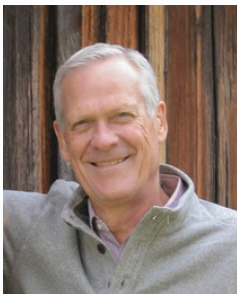
Thank you Ellen Furlong for supporting the SMSD Mission!



Welcome New 1Q Volunteers to the SMSD Family!

- Robert Benson, Socializer & Transport
- Kathy Brammer, Respite
- Amy Bulluck, Transport
- Erin Dalton, Respite
- Bree Fortney, Respite
- Jenni Mathews, Transport
- John Nametz, Board of Directors
- Patty Prince, Respite
- Lynne Shea, Transport

Welcome New Board Member



John is a retired Optometrist and resides in Tellico Village, Loudon, TN with his wife Cheryl. John is originally from St. Louis, Michigan and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Olivet College where he was an all-conference basketball player on three conference championship teams. Along with other board members, John will play a major role in the future and strategic direction of Smoky Mountain Service Dogs.

Volunteer Appreciation Day! We celebrated all of our wonderful volunteers with a "picnic" held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club. We cannot thank our amazing volunteers enough for being the reason we are able to succeed in our mission to help our wounded Veterans.



More candid shots from the picnic .



Fierce competition as each table formed a team to answer trivia questions - dog related, of course. The winners - our staff table, of course!



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Written and illustrated by our very own Haylee S. about our very own SMSD Cowboy. Available at Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble.com.

Join our Team of Volunteers!!

Our Specialty License Plate program is going strong! Tennessee residents - You can take your current plate to your County Clerk's office and request the SMSD plate any time during the year.



Don't forget to connect your Kroger Rewards card to SMSD!



Comments, suggestions, corrections? Contact laurie.b@smokymountainservicedogs.org



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