

It was so long ago that we started planning this, it's hard to believe it's almost here!

Welcome to SOTC's first AKC Scent Work Trial.

Attached is a map of the building and grounds marked with the locations of everything! It should be pretty easy to understand, but we'll also have plenty of people around that you can always ask questions.

We're really excited about having the ability to use a Local Landmark like American High, formally A V Zogg Middle School and we want to make sure we leave it in as good, if not better condition, than when we started. American High/Syracuse Studios use this building for shooting movies so you are apt to see just about anything. They start shooting their next movie on the 26th, the day after our trial! We're only using part of the building, so you might see workers running around building sets and arranging things. And since they don't usually use the entrance, bathrooms and cafeteria that we'll be using, it may not be as clean and bright as you might expect, but we are very happy and grateful to be there.

The number one question is "will it be **air conditioned?**" Yes, technically it is air conditioned, but it's an old building and there are places where the AC works better than other places. But in any case, it's better than crating in your car in July!

Crating - We'll be crating in what used to be the cafeteria. We'll be marking crating spaces so we can maximize the area. You won't need to bring in your own chairs, unless it's your good luck chair and you won't leave home without it. There are lots of chairs in the cafeteria and if we run out of those, I know where they keep other chairs. The floor hasn't seen any wax in I don't know how long, so don't worry about bringing anything to put under your crate, unless you're concerned about your crate.

The entrances, Handicap Parking and getting around the building. If you come in the front doors, from outside, you'll need to go upstairs to get to the crating area, (remember this building is over a hundred years old) then take the downstairs to your left. But to get to the cafeteria quicker, from the outside, go to the left of the building and there's a door where there's just a few stairs.

If you need handicap parking - there is a small parking lot on the left side of the building and there are two entrances where there are no stairs.

Once you're on the first floor, there are no stairs to get to the crating area, Containers, Buried (yes! Buried will be indoors!!!) and to where the Exterior

exits/starts will be. For Interiors, there will be some on the main floor, I'm thinking Novice and Advanced, so there will be no stairs for these. Excellent and Master Interiors will be on the 2nd and 3rd floors. It hasn't been 100% decided yet because the judges will have the final say. But don't worry, besides stairs, there is an elevator!! It's small, old and slow, but it works. Please only use the elevator if you really can't do stairs very well.

The school is in the middle of a residential area so please:

- Only potty your dogs in the designated area (which is on the left side of the building).
- Do not let your dogs go potty in the front of the building or on any bushes.
- Pick up after your dog.
- Stay on the school grounds.
- Please don't let your dog bark excessively. If he/she will bark when you're not with them, don't leave them in the car alone. Same applies to the crating area.
- It's a weekend, normal people (not dog people) like to sleep in, so since we're starting early, please be very cognizant of this and let's keep noise to a minimum, at least until 10 or 11am. That includes the beep-beep of backing up your vehicle, loud talking/hollering to your friends or dogs, etc.

Behind the building is a large soccer and softball field. This is where we'll be doing Exteriors so do not walk your dog anywhere behind the building.

Now for the good stuff!

The building will open at 7:30am at which time you can set-up your crates and check in. **Checking in** will be self-service, meaning there will be check in sheets for each element and class on the tables and you just sign in. Though armbands are not required, there will be **armband stickers** that you'll need to take from the sticker sheets next to the check in sheets. Everyone will have an armband number. After you check in, find your armband sticker for each dog which you can either stick to yourself, your dog's harness or to an index card which you'll be able to use like a normal armband. We'll have rubber bands for them too.

We'll have the briefing at 8:30am sharp in the cafeteria. All Novice elements will start right after the briefing. Advance elements will start right after Novice. If you are entered in both trials, 1 and 2, for the day, you will do them back-to-back. In other words, once you do Containers (or Buried, Exterior or Interior) 1, you'll go right into doing trial 2. Please note, Excellent Interiors will start at 9am and Master's will follow, which should be about 1pm. Yes, this means that both Novice and Excellent Interiors will be running at the same time; they will be on different floors.

We will NOT be running in armband order. Volunteers will go first whenever possible (they must be assigned and working to get this privilege. Gate Keepers will have a list). To manage everyone's expectations and keep the lines from bottlenecking, we will have a new Gate Keeper App which you'll be able to see from a monitor/pc in the cafeteria, or you can view from your cellphone or tablet. See below for more information about the Scent Work Gate Keeper.

Saturday's Schedule

7:30am Building Opens

8:30am Briefing

9:00am All Novice elements start, Trials 1 and 2

9:00am Excellent Interior start, Trials 1 and 2

11:00am All Advance will start after Novice

1:00pm All Excellent, followed by Masters (except Interiors) will start after Advance, but not before 1pm

1:00pm All Master Interior will start after Excellent

Sunday schedule will probably be the same as Saturday's but we reserve the right to change it to make everything flow better.

Monday's Schedule

7:30am Building Opens

8:15am Briefing

8:30am Interiors* and Handler Discrimination**

9:30am Containers** Start

11:30am Exteriors** start

*Novice followed by Advanced

** Novice followed by Advanced, then Excellent then Master

Volunteers - we wouldn't be able to host this SW Trial without all our volunteers! We're lucky, we've had a lot of people sign up to volunteer for Saturday (not so many for Sunday), but because most of these volunteers are also running

their dog(s), figuring out a schedule is very complicated. So what we've done is assign volunteers to each element and next to everyone's name are letters to indicate what level they are running in. For example, a N would be for Novice, A for advance, etc. An am or pm next to their name means they signed up for morning or afternoon. So how this will work is there will be a fulltime or almost fulltime person who will work out who's doing what job and when people will go run their dog. It may be that we're able to send them first/early, or after someone comes back. We ask people to be flexible with us for letting the volunteers jump ahead of the line so they can get back to their job. If you're name isn't on the list but would like to sign up to volunteer, just see Terri Botsford, we'd love to have you!

Move-ups: please fill out the move up paperwork, which you can find in the cafeteria, and put in the tray on the Trial Secretary's door as soon as you know you want to move-up, or by at least 30 minutes before the end of the day. There's a lot of work that has to get done before Sunday by the Trial Secretary (TS), so the sooner she has these, the better.

Speaking of Trial Secretary, this is Sue Eaton's first time as a TS, let alone TS for something as complicated as Scent Work. So if you have any questions, please see Terri Botsford, do not interrupt or ask Sue.

Lunch - There will **not** be any food vendors on the premises, but you are allowed to bring your own food into the cafeteria. There are lots of great restaurants within just a few miles and if you watch our handy Gate Keeper App, you should have plenty of time to eat. We have a list of our favorite local restaurants that you can find here: <https://sotc.info/ScentWork/Local-Food> and we'll print some copies and leave them in the cafeteria. Lunch and snacks will be provided for Judges and volunteers next to the TS's office.

Let me explain about the Gate Keeper App. At the beginning of the day, it will look something like this:

The **# to go spot** will be how many teams are left to run. For this purpose, it will include those who are doing both Trial 1 and Trial 2, as 1 team.

The **# waiting is how many people are in line and** waiting to run. Our volunteers will be keeping this updated.

SOTC Scent Work Trial: Welcome Letter

The purpose of this is to give people an idea of how many people/dogs are waiting and how many there are left to go for each level and element. This way, you can plan your runs. If there's a small line for one element, like say Buried, then you might want to do that rather than wait in a longer line like for Containers. This way you'll be able to keep your dog rested or take your time pottying them. Likewise, if you haven't done a specific element and you see they only have 1 or 2 teams to go, then you had better get in line for that element. We would like to keep the lines to no more than 5 at a time and there will be chairs to use while you're in line. We will also use the announcement box on the bottom, if we're looking for someone, or to announce when placements have been posted, etc.

To access our Scent Work Gate Keeper, just go to <https://bit.ly/3o8JSxx> or use the QR code or URL that will be posted in the cafeteria.

I hope that's everything! If you have any questions, email me at tbotsford@sotc.info or check our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/808755469783130>

Looking forward to seeing everyone in a few days!

Terri Botsford