

Hello SWCDP Members



HALLOWEEN CONTEST

Hope those of you who attended our annual Fall Celebration and Halloween Party had a good time. We think over a six hour party - we had more than 150 dogs drop by. Lots of wagging tails and smiling faces. More photos and news on this in the next newsletter. A ballot with photos of all dogs in the costume contest will be sent to every member – and each of you will have the opportunity – and fun – to vote for our winners. **Watch for the email – coming soon.**

Attention contest contestants and party volunteers. Check your email. You were recently sent directions on how/where to pick up the final item to your Batty Bag. Please do so right away, as we will not keep the gel on site indefinitely. Thanks again for participating.

SWCDP MERCHANDISE ORDER

We have a master order for dog park gear being submitted within the next few days – so there is still time for you to get an end-of-year order in. Remember, SWCDP merchandise (shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts) make great Holiday gifts as well as purchases for yourself. Help support your dog park – and show your pride in Southwest City Dog Park – by wearing your SWCDP logo around town.

Attached is an order form for your selection. For this one time – we will take orders on an honor system – meaning you may put in your order – and pay for it at pick up (*cash or check*). It is usually about 3 weeks from order submission to delivery to dog park for pick up – so please get your orders in now (before Nov 15).

SETTING UP WINTER SHELTER and MAZE

Over the next week or two – you will see us moving straw bales, setting up the large climbing maze on the Main playground, and installing our temporary winter shelter. ALL OF THESE TASKS require multiple people – it is not a one person job – we will need members to pitch in. You guys (*or gals*) with good upper body strength – PLEASE help move bales and shelter pieces so we can get the tasks completed quickly and safely.

When you see a truck on the grounds – you MUST put your dog on leash, go to the other area of the dog park and keep your dog close to you – or go home. Keep your dog away from the truck, gate openings, and work site. We cannot be responsible for loose dogs while we are doing work on the grounds. It is YOUR responsibility to manage your dog when service gates are open or vehicles or equipment are in use on the playground.

WATER STATIONS

We are now in our cold weather mode as it relates to water sources. **Water Station 1** remains open for drinking water on the Main playground. **Water Station 5** (*dog wash*) stays open for rinsing dog and for drinking water on the Alternate playground. All other stations are closed until next season. When weather is at risk of freezing, empty buckets and turn over in the evening so they can be refilled in the morning without frozen water. Soon we will be switching to sturdier buckets for the winter season.

SWCDP, we have a problem. You will hear more in future communiqués – but for starters – read on . . .

FOLLOWING THE RULES

The use of Southwest City Dog Park is a “self-directed” experience. There is no paid management on the property. You use the dog park at your own risk. To cut down on risk potential – it is absolutely imperative that ALL members comply with ALL rules and guidelines at ALL times.

We will not reward bad behavior!

SWCDP Board and Safety and Incident Committee are spending way too much time dealing with the fall-out from a few members who repeatedly break the rules. We are prepared to deal with the inevitable dog fight, equipment break, or other normal wear and tear or incident issues. It is not okay to have our time consumed by members who constantly ignore the rules - perhaps 3-5% of the membership. It may be **time to begin clearing out the sources of such problems** so that the majority of the membership – and management – can enjoy the rest of the season without such headaches.

- **If you bring your dog into dog park without a collar or tag – your membership is at risk.**
- **If you leave your dog leash in the entry area and do not carry it with you at all times – your membership is at risk.**
- **If you leave gates open to any of the entry/exits or the specified game areas (e.g., current agility, future tether ball) - your membership is at risk.**
- **If you bring in food, dog treats, or alcoholic beverages – your membership is at risk.**
- **If you give out the code or let non-member dogs into the dog park – your membership is at risk.**

Members are asked to report any of the above violations to SAIC immediately. We want to stop this behavior now. Offenders will get one warning letter from SAIC and if they do not comply, their membership will either be terminated or they will not be eligible for renewal next season, depending on the situation.

saic.incident.swcitydogpark@gmail.com

A word about foul language, shouting, threatening behavior . . .

- You are in the right to address members who break rules – but when you lose control, you lose the valid point you were making – because YOU become the incident. Stay calm, stick to facts. Ask other members to join you if you feel you cannot do this on your own.
- If you are breaking a rule and then confronted by a member – you are already in the wrong. Don't add fuel to the situation by becoming defensive or combative. Becoming aggressive will not win your case, or help you should the incident reach SAIC review level.

DOING YOUR SHARE – MONITORING PLAYGROUND – PITCHING IN

Because SWCDP is 100% volunteer organization – everyone – must help monitor the playground. We hope you will also raise your hand with an offer to help when we have special projects or ongoing operational tasks. The management team will have responsibility for any changes to policy, process, grounds infrastructure or amenities – but we need ongoing support from the membership. We have a top-notch dog park – let's keep it this way!

SWCDP MANAGEMENT

We normally don't think it necessary to state what we thought were well known facts – but based on recent feedback and observations – perhaps we should spell it out.

The SWCDP Board and other committees (e.g., Safety and Incident Committee-SAIC) do not receive any financial compensation or special benefits or perks; they pay the same membership fee as you do and are held to the same requirements; they follow every rule and try to set an example, as leaders, for the membership at large. In return for the enormous amount of time and energy these members donate to the operation of the dog park – they ask for member cooperation, support, and volunteer assistance, as needed.

Thank you for reading this communiqué – now let's get to work. Peace on the playground, please.

SWCDP Management

