



ADVANCED COMMUNICATOR AWARD

JUNIOR HANDLERS • GRADES 5–7

Achievement Checklist | Choose any 5 of the 13 activities below. Complete each selected activity with a parent/guardian or chapter leader. Have the supervising adult sign and date each completed activity.

Junior Handler: _____

Chapter: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Dog's Name: _____

ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS

SELECT ANY 5 OF 13

1. The "Micro-Expression" Dog Log

During a visit, observe and record subtle stress or comfort signals in your dog (such as a lip lick, head turn, ear shift, or sigh). Note what may have prompted the behavior and discuss it with your parent/guardian or chapter leader.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

2. Body Language Scout: Reading the Room

Notice how the people you visit may be feeling. For example, someone may seem tired, excited to talk, or uncomfortable. With your parent/guardian's guidance, choose a respectful and appropriate response.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

3. Proactive Environmental Scanning

Practice looking ahead for possible hazards or distractions—such as dropped pills, food wrappers, crutches, or loud carts—and help guide your dog safely around them before your dog reaches them.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

4. The Open-Ended Question Challenge

During a visit, practice using open-ended questions that invite people to share stories instead of questions that can be answered only "yes" or "no." Examples: "What are some of your fondest memories?" or "If our dog could talk today, what do you think he would say?"

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

5. Active Listening Summaries

After a visit, recall three specific details shared by people you met. Remembering a favorite sports team, hobby, or other interest can help you build empathy and make future visits more meaningful.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

6. Canine Good Citizen Practice (Optional)

If your dog was already certified as a therapy dog and you did not complete the Canine Good Citizen test as part of that certification, practice a mock Canine Good Citizen test with a parent/guardian or chapter leader. This activity does not replace any required certification.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

7. The Icebreaker

Practice starting conversations by waving, saying a cheerful hello, and introducing your dog by name. Work on eye contact, speaking clearly, and using good manners. Ask, "Would you like to pet our dog?" before inviting someone to interact.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

8. The Time Keeper

With your parent/guardian's guidance, help keep track of visit start and end times. Make sure your team arrives on time and leaves at the time agreed upon with the facility.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

9. Toy/Trick Coordinator

If your dog knows gentle tricks, such as "shake" or "spin," help give the hand signal or verbal cue during a visit so people can see your dog respond. Follow the handler's directions and keep the dog comfortable.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

10. The Giver of Permission

Show respectful manners by asking, "Would you like to pet our dog?" Wait for the person's answer and follow your parent/guardian's guidance before allowing an interaction.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

11. Body Language Scout for Pups

Watch your dog's tail, ears, posture, and other signals. Let your parent/guardian know if your dog may need space, water, a break, or to end an interaction.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

12. Storybook Partner

When visiting a library or school, choose a book that may connect with the person or group you are visiting. With permission and guidance, read the book aloud to them.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

13. The Evangelist

With your parent/guardian's guidance, look for an appropriate and respectful opportunity to share about Christ during a Canines for Christ visit. Respect each person's comfort and wishes.

☐ Completed	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------------------------	--	-------------

CANINES FOR CHRIST VISIT REQUIREMENT

In addition to choosing and completing 5 of the 13 activities, complete 10 Canines for Christ (C4C) visits. Have a parent/guardian or chapter leader verify each visit below.

Visit #	Date	Facility / Visit Location	Parent/Guardian or Chapter Leader Initials
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

8			
9			
10			

Final Verification

I confirm that at least 5 of the 13 activities and all 10 C4C visits have been completed.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chapter Leader Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Total activities completed: _____ / 13 (5 required)