



Everything you need, in two minutes

VOLUNTEER PLAN

WHY WE SPLIT THE PACK

At 70+ dogs, one giant line stops and bunches constantly. We walk as smaller groups instead, so each group keeps its own rhythm. Steady movement and sniffing calm dogs down. Bunching and sudden stops wind them up.

THE GROUPS

- **3 groups of 25 to 30 dogs.** Add a fourth group past 90.
- Groups leave **3 minutes apart**, and hold about **150 feet** between them. If you can hear the group ahead of you talking, ease off the pace.
- **Every group is mixed.** Green, yellow, and red dogs all walk in every group. We never put the reds together.
- A 25-dog group is a long line, so **every group has two volunteers**, one at the front and one in the middle.

BANDANA COLORS

Every dog gets a bandana at check-in. The color tells you how to treat that dog. It does not decide their group.

- **GREEN, ALL GOOD HERE**
Comfortable around dogs and people. **THESE ARE OUR ANCHORS.**
- **YELLOW, EASY DOES IT**
Needs a little space, still learning.
- **RED, GIVE US ROOM**
Needs real space. Never let anyone approach a red bandana dog.

Proceed with caution around every dog, including greens. Green means comfortable, it does not mean safe to approach. Every dog here is still a dog, on a leash, in a crowd, having their own kind of day. Safety comes before everything else we do.

THE ANCHOR SYSTEM

We scatter the colors on purpose, because it regulates the dogs. A calm dog walking steadily beside a dog who is working hard gives that dog something to settle against. A clump of reactive dogs feeds itself.

So when you place dogs in a line:

- A **green anchor at the front** of the group behind the lead, and a **green at the back**.
- **Never two yellows or two reds side by side.** Put a green between them.
- Reds walk on the **outside edge** of the line, with a green ahead of them and a green behind.
- Not enough greens in a group? Spread the yellows and reds **farther apart** instead. Space does the same job.

YOUR POST

CHECK-IN, 2 PEOPLE. Greet, hand out bandanas, then **PLACE**: send each client and dog to a group AND tell them roughly where to stand in it, so the colors stay scattered. Hand out volunteer shirts.

GROUP LEAD, 1 PER GROUP. Walk at the front, set the pace, call the stops, hold your gap to the group ahead.

GROUP MIDDLE, 1 PER GROUP. Walk halfway back. You are the lead's eyes on the second half of the line. Relay every signal forward and back.

SWEEP, 1 PERSON. Walk at the very back, behind the last group. Nobody gets left behind you. Carry the first aid kit and extra water.

FLOATER, 1 PERSON. Roam between groups, cover road crossings, back up whoever needs a hand.

SIGNALS

STOP

Lead raises one arm straight up and calls "POTTY BREAK". The group stops where it stands, dogs to the outside, everyone lets their dog sniff and go.

MOVE

Arm drops, "WALK ON".

NEED HELP

Two arms crossed overhead. The floater comes to you.

Pass every signal down the line by repeating it. Do not shout past people.

IF A DOG HAS TROUBLE

1. The handler steps their dog **out of the line**, off to the side, and lets them sniff. Distance and sniffing fix most moments.
2. One volunteer stays a few feet away, facing the group, not the dog.
3. The group **keeps walking**, slowly. Do not gather around. A crowd makes it worse.
4. When they settle, they rejoin **next to a green anchor**, at the back of their group or in the next group coming through.
5. If they cannot settle, walk the client and dog back to the parking lot at their own pace. That is a win, not a failure. Tell the floater.

The three rules

1. **Volunteers do not bring their dog.** Your hands and attention stay free.
2. **Never touch someone else's dog or leash** unless the handler asks you to. Proceed with caution around every dog, green ones included. Safety first, always.
3. **If you are not sure, stop your group and ask the floater.** Stopping is free.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. YOUR SHIRT IS AT CHECK-IN.



Read this out loud before we walk

START OF WALK BRIEF

About 60 seconds. Say it in your own words, this is just the shape of it. Wait until the groups are staged at their cones so people can look at where they are going.

Open warm

Good morning everyone! Look at this pack. Okay, quick housekeeping so today feels good for every single dog here.

The groups

We are walking in **three groups** today, not one giant line. Your group has two people in pack walk shirts, one at the front and one in the middle. Stay behind your lead and keep a little space between you and the dog next to you.

Why we mix the colors

You will notice we are **not** putting all the reds together. We mix the colors up on purpose, because it regulates the dogs. A calm dog walking steady next to a dog who is working hard gives that dog something to settle against. **The green bandanas are our anchors**, so we spread them all through the line. If your dog is green, you are doing more than you know just by walking calmly. If your dog is yellow or red, you will have a green dog near you, and that is on purpose.

Give them the out

If your dog has a moment, no big deal. Step out of the line, let them sniff, take a breath. **Sniffing calms them down, and calm travels down the leash.** Come back in next to one of the green dogs when they are ready. Nobody is judging, that is literally why we are here.

The asks

Please do not approach a dog wearing red, and **always ask before greeting any dog, including the greens.** Green means that dog is comfortable, it does not mean go ahead. Safety is the whole point of how we run these. If a lead raises their arm and calls **potty break**, your group just stops and lets the dogs sniff and go until they say **walk on**.

Point at the help

The people in pack walk shirts are volunteers. They are here so all of us stay safe, so if you need anything, grab one of them.

Send them off

That's it! Find your group at your cone. Let's walk!