



Saving Paws Rescue highly encourages adopters to participate in training throughout the life of their dog. Our breeds are highly intelligent, and they need to exercise their minds and their bodies to be well rounded dogs.

Training is a great way to meet other like people and realize that everyone is working on skills with their dog. We encourage all our adopters to reach out to us early on should you find that you are having issues. It is often the case that training interventions can help stop unwanted behavior, but behavior left unchecked over time often becomes the reason dogs are returned or left at shelters.

## **SPR TRAINING COORDINATOR:**

**Volunteer Nancy Zeiher**  
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# TRAINING RESOURCES

## **SELECTING A TRAINER**

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Before you select any personal dog trainer, class or school, take the time to go and observe the trainer in class or with a client. References are always good but remember that one trainer's style might work for one person but not another. If a potential trainer refuses to let you observe their work, you may consider looking for one who will. You as the handler are as much a part of the training as the dog, so if you do not connect with the trainer, you won't likely get the most of your sessions.

Not all trainers are experienced with working with working line dogs, such as GSD and Belgian Malinois, so find out their experience and what type of training they generally use.

## **TYPES OF TRAINING**

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Training generally comes in one of these methods: 1:1, group classes or board & train. They all have different goals and work with differing dogs and issues. Some may use multiple trainings such as 1:1 initially when the dog is unable to participate in a group class. Then once they gain basic skills, they might go on to group classes. Board & Train is when your dog goes into the home or facility with a training for an extended period of time. This can be helpful for certain types of training but remember that unless you are working closely when the dog returns you may not get the same result as the professional trainer.

## **TRAINING EXPECTATIONS**

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Consistency and timing are key elements in training. Trainers can help you see how your timing (when you correct or reward) is seen from the eyes of your dog. Classes are important and we strongly encourage them for all GSD, but classes must work with daily practice at home. No one, including your dog, will master any skill without a lot of practice. Most come to realize that this training time is a fun activity for your both and a great way to improve your relationship with your dog.

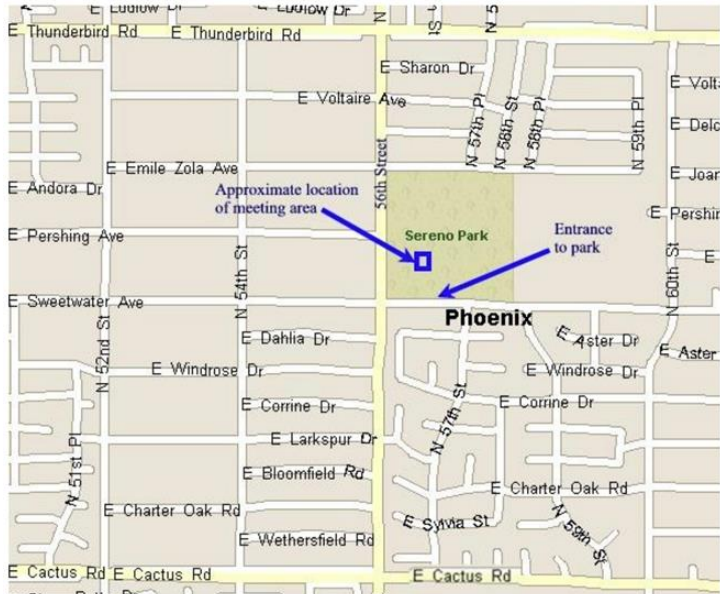
## SPR TRAINING CLASSES (GROUP CLASSES -NO CHARGE)

SPR's Training Coordinator, Volunteer Nancy offers obedience classes in two locations. North Phoenix and East Valley. All SPR adopters and fosters are welcome to attend. If you are experiencing specific behaviors, we encourage you to reach out to Nancy to discuss whether group classes (or her working 1:1 with you would be the best plan. Any SPR adopted dog can attend (not breed restricted) What to bring to class? A standard (non-retractable leash, collar, Matt or Rug, patience and a sense of humor.

### MONDAY NIGHT (North Phoenix/Scottsdale)

Time: Classes start at 6:00 pm

Location: Sereno Park 5720 Sweetwater Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

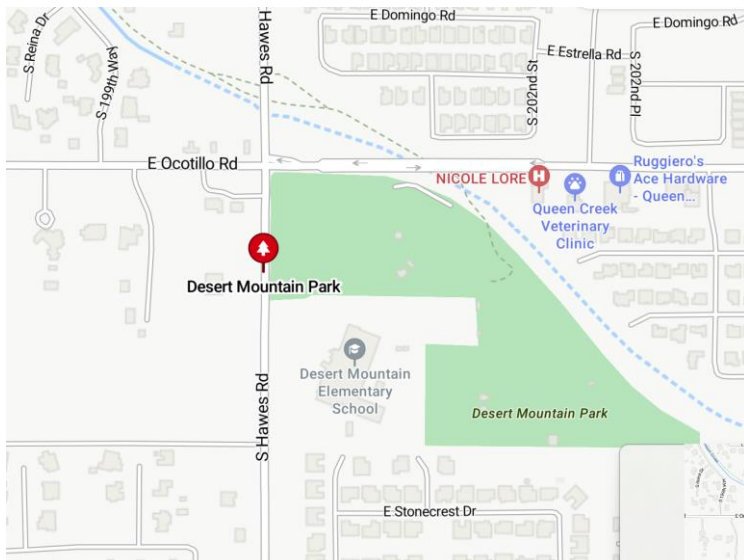


### SATURDAY MORNING (Queen Creek )

Time: Classes start at 8:00 am

Location: Desert Mountain Park 22201 S. Hawes Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142

The retention area across from the horse staging area



## GRAND CANYON GSD CLUB TRAINING CLASSES (NO CHARGE)

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GCGSDC is the official club of the American Kennel Club. The club is dedicated to the GSD breed and as part of the club, they offer free GSD obedience classes to any GSD owner (or foster) in the community. Classes are once a week with a break during the excessive summer heat months. Classes generally run Oct – May. They also offer other activities as part of the club. You **DO NOT** have to be a member of the club to participate in obedience, however the classes are restricted to GSD breed due to AKC affiliation. If you have a GSD mix, that will be accepted.

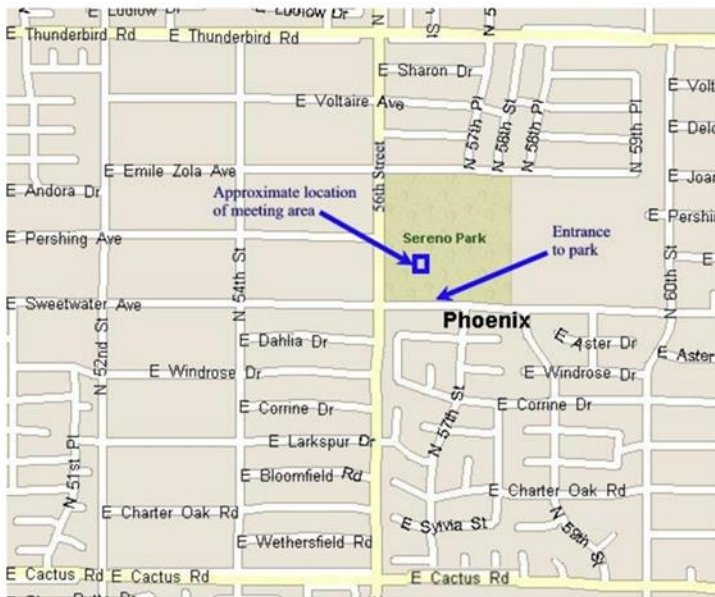
TUESDAY NIGHT (North Phoenix/Scottsdale)

Website: [GCGSDC Obedience \(grandcanyongsd.com\)](http://GCGSDC Obedience (grandcanyongsd.com))

Obedience Chairperson: Mary Hamilton [editorial@aiamagazine.com](mailto:editorial@aiamagazine.com)

Day & Time: Classes starting at 6:30 pm

Location: The Club meets on the west side of Sereno Park in the North Phoenix | Scottsdale area. The park is located at 5720 E Sweetwater Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254



## PHOENIX FIELD & OBEDIENCE (LOW-COST OBEDIENCE)

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Phoenix Field and Obedience Club is the oldest and largest not-for-profit dog obedience training club in the Phoenix metro area. Their main activities are conducting low-cost dog training classes for the public. PFOC welcomes all breeds and skill levels into their classes. PFOC classes are skill and age level, so you can move up into more advanced skill work as you and dog become more skilled. Rally classes are also offered as part of their curriculum which is a blend between light agility and obedience. A great skills class for you and your dog.

Details on location, cost and class time is on the website at <https://www.pfoc.club/>

## 1:1 AND PRIVATE TRAINERS

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There is no shortage of individual trainers. SPR is more than happy to work with any adopter or foster to address a training issue. We no longer place any recommendations for private training resources as we cannot keep current with all the trainers. Our Training Coordinator or one of our adoption coordinators can help you with some possible names to research. We also have a **private** social media adopters Facebook group that allows adoptive owners the ability to discuss issues and share experiences with different trainers. Your adoption coordinator can help you join this great group of adopters with a wealth of information.

## **SPR HIKING CLUB (MONTHLY HIKES DURING COOLER MONTHS)**

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SPR training coordinator Nancy arranges a hike for SPR adopted dogs once a month during cooler months when hiking trails are safe for dogs and handlers. Dogs that have worked in obedience and have basic skills to hike in a group and manage interaction with other dogs and hikers are encouraged to join. Nancy announces the date and location (including hiking skill level) in her class and without our private adopter social media group. These structured events give you a more real-life way to challenge yourself and your dog in their obedience skills.

## **TRAINING READING MATERIALS**

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No single training book is perfect. We have learned that you can take elements from each of them that work and leave other pieces out of your training. However, for a good solid basic training book "Good Owners, Great Dogs" by Brian Kilcommons & Sarah Wilson (1992) is a very good basic obedience book. It is a general dog ownership book but has strong obedience and training sections that offer photographs to demonstrate key points. Your trainer may also offer you more resources online once you get started.



## **SPR DISCLOSURE**

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*SPR provides this information as a courtesy to our adopters. We do not have any control over non-SPR directed activities. We encourage you to research and observe classes and determine what is best for you and your dog. SPRAZ is NOT affiliated with or endorsing trainer Brain Keller of Arizona K9 or AZK9. Any written materials from Mr. Keller indicating an association with SPRAZ is not accurate.*