Official NACSW™

ELT-S, L2E, ELT-S, L2C, NW1, and L1I

August 28-30, 2026

TRIAL LOCATIONS:

Friday and Saturday	Sunday
Talbot Agricultural Center	Fire Museum of Maryland
10659 Hiners Lane	1301 York Rd
Easton, MD 21601	Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

It is not appropriate to contact or visit the trial location prior to the trial date, nor should training take place on trial grounds once an event is approved/announced. Our locations are real life search environments where people work, go to school, etc. Pre-trial contact or visits risk the host losing the opportunity to use the location again in the future.

Trial Host and Secretary Contact Info:

Cornelia Heckenbach Fair Play Labradors

info@corneliaheckenbach.com 410-310-1229

Easton, MD
ELT-S: Friday morning, August 28, 2026
L2E: Friday afternoon, August 28, 2026
ELT-S: Saturday morning, August 29, 2026
L2C: Saturday afternoon, August 29, 2026

Lutherville, MD
NW1: Sunday morning, August 30, 2026
L1I: Sunday afternoon, August 30, 2026

Certifying Official All Days

Becky Miller

Judges:

Friday and Saturday: Sandy Banthem and Mary Ellen Grady

Sunday: Sandy Banthem, TBD

Entry Cost:

ELT-S: $145 per dog and handler team
L2E/L2C: $110 per dog and handler team
NW1: $185 per dog and handler team
L1I: $105 per dog and handler team

Number of Entries:
ELT-S: 20 entries

L2E: 28 entries
ELT-S: 20 entries
L2C: 28 entries
NW1: 25 entries
L1I: 38 entries
One dog per handler per level.

TRIAL ENTRY INFORMATION

Trial Entry Open and Closing

- The draw period for the trial will open on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 12:00 PM noon Eastern Time. Entries will be awarded by random draw of all entries received between 12:00 PM noon Eastern Time on Monday, July 13, 2026 and 12:00 PM noon Eastern Time on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.
- Trial entry will close at the end of the draw if the trial and wait list are deemed full. If the trial and wait list are not full, the trial will remain open for entries until they are deemed full or the day of the trial.
- We will not be taking payment until you are given a space in the trial. If you are given a space in the trial, you will receive information on how to submit payment. You will then have **3 days** to complete your payment to confirm your space in the trial.

Entry Method

All entries will be on-line via the link provided to the NACSW trial entry form. Paper and phone entries will not be accepted. Completing the form is not a guarantee of entry. You will receive a confirmation from either **info@corneliaheckenbach.com** or **WonderWoman@redhuskies.com** to let you know if your entry has been given a space in the trial.

Entry Requirements & Selection

A Qualified Entry is one that meets all the following criteria:

1. Complete the on-line trial entry during the draw period listed above.
2. The Handler is a NACSW member in good standing for the 2026-2027 membership year (8/1/26 - 7/31/27).
3. The Dog is registered and in good standing with the NACSW.
4. Dogs participating in a trial must be at least one year of age.
5. The Dog has achieved the prior title level and ORT title (passed all 3 odors) at least 14 days before the trial opens for entries.This applies to all levels.
6.

Qualified entry for NW1 – Dog has not yet earned a NW1 title level.
Qualified entry for Level 1 Interiors – Dog has not earned the Level 1 title for Interiors.
Qualified entry for Level 2 Exteriors – Dog has earned the Level 1 title for Exteriors but has not yet earned the Level 2 title for Exteriors.
Qualified entry for Level 2 Containers – Dog has earned the Level 1 title for Containers but has not yet earned the Level 2 title for Containers.

Qualified entry for Elite Select– Dog has earned a minimum of one NW3 title or any one L3 title (L3I, L3E, L3C, or L3V). Note that teams with higher titles (Elite Division and Summit) are also eligible to compete.

Trial spaces will be determined in the following manner:

- Spaces will be awarded by a random draw of all Qualified Entries received during the draw period listed above.
- Once the trial opens for entry, if you are having technical difficulties entering during the 48 hour draw period, please email trialentry@nacsw.net prior to the end of the draw period. For any other questions that are not related to the trial entry system, contact the trial host.
- No dog will be given a space in more than one trial of the same level and type at a single event.
- You may enter multiple dogs for entry in the draw. However, only one dog/handler per title level will be accepted into the trial. Entry will go to the dog selected in the draw – you may not swap to an alternate dog. If multiple dogs are selected in the draw, you may select which dog you wish to enter. Once a dog has been entered as a second dog/handler entry, you may not swap handlers after the draw to change the entry to a first dog/handler unless the trial is not full.

- If a trial level is not full after the draw of Qualified Entries, then there will be a Secondary Draw of any entries received that did not meet the ORT title or title requirements. These entries will be accepted pending completion of the requirements. **Note:** dogs must earn their ORT title and prior title level at least 3 days prior to the trial date to be eligible to compete. If the required title or ORT title is earned less than 14 days prior to the event, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the host that the requirement has been completed.

- If the trial level and wait list are not full after all entries received during the draw period have been processed, entries will continue to be accepted in the order they are received until the trial and wait list are deemed full.

- Second dog/handler entries may be accepted for the alternate trial of the same level after all first dog/handler entries received during the draw period are accommodated.

- For Exhibit Only Dogs (FEO): Dogs running FEO are not eligible to receive titles or earn placement ribbons. FEO results will not be included in the posted trial results.

    - If space remains after all qualified entries are accommodated on Sunday, August 23, 2026, then we will offer spaces for those who wish to run a dog For Exhibition Only (FEO). Second dog/handler FEO entries on the same day will be offered spaces after Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

- The trial host of an event has the right to refuse entry of any competitor or dog for just cause as approved by the National Trial Committee. Just cause includes lack of adherence to NACSW rules and guidelines and the policies outlined in each event entry premium.

- Some trial entries may be given priority entry based on contributions to the organization

and the trial process.

Notification

You will be notified via e-mail of the results of the random draw by **end of day on Monday, July 20, 2026**.

If you have a spam blocker on your email account, please configure it to allow email from info@corneliaheckenbach.com and WonderWoman@redhuskies.com in order to ensure delivery of confirmation and information about this trial.

You will then have **3 days** to complete your payment via PayPal to confirm your space in the trial. Paypal or credit card through the Paypal site - no Paypal account required. If you use “Friends and Family” it will eliminate fees for both parties. If you select “Goods and Services” you must add extra to cover the PayPal fees. If there is a PayPal fee, you will incur the fee, and submit total payment as the trial fee plus the PayPal fee.

A waiting list for alternates will be started as soon as entries fill. Alternates will be contacted when a space opens. Depending on last minute trial logistics, we may opt to not fill all canceled spaces.

NACSW™ reserves the right to cancel a trial if minimum entry numbers are not met.

Be sure you read and understand the guidelines for this trial before entering. By submitting a registration for this NACSW™ Trial, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and accept the policies and liability information of NACSW™.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The following cancellation policy applies:

- For cancellation of entries before 11:59 PM Eastern Time on August 2, 2026: full refund minus $25 processing fee.
- For cancellation of entries between August 3, 2026 and before 11:59 PM Eastern Time on August 22, 2026: 75% refund will be issued if host can and does fill your space with a Qualified Entry. If the space is filled with a discounted or free entry, you will receive a refund dependent on the income from the replacement entry. Please note: Due to time constraints, the host may opt to not fill cancelled spaces and no refund will be issued.
- For cancellation of entries on or after August 23, 2026: No refund will be issued.

If you earn the title that makes you no longer eligible for the level you are entered, then you must contact the trial host at info@corneliaheckenbach.com to cancel your entry and will be subject to the published cancellation policy. You may opt to change your entry to an FEO entry in this case and will be placed on the FEO waitlist and only receive a space in the trial if the host is accepting FEO entries.

All cancellations must be emailed to info@corneliaheckenbach.com. For cancellations that meet the above guidelines, refunds will be issued within 30 days and no later than 14 days after the trial date. Please send an email reminder for refunds. Refunds are made electronically.

Entry fees shall not be refunded if a dog or handler is absent, disqualified, or excused by the NACSW™ official or judge.

This cancellation and refund policy applies to competitors that must withdraw for any reason including but not limited to injury, illness, emergency, and personal or work-related reasons.

If the trial cannot take place or be completed by reason of fire, civil disturbances, an Act of God, public emergency, or any other cause beyond the control of the trial organizers, then the trial host will make their best effort to provide partial refunds after recouping their expenses.

LOCATION DETAILS

Easton, MD ADA Site Specific Conditions

This trial location is surrounded by environmental areas and farmland. There is one set of indoor bathrooms on ground level, but there will be portajohns available in the parking lot if this restroom is unavailable for some reason. Pathways to/from search areas will require you to navigate mild terrain, grass, gravel roads, stone pathways, and unlevel fields. Most areas will not have any stairs, but there is a slight chance there could be steps when entering or within search areas. Most sheds and buildings do not have steps but some require you to step up into them. There may be steps, running boards, or platforms entering vehicles. Interior floors may have laminate, wood, carpet, concrete or sealed concrete flooring, loose or packed gravel. There may be driving to some search areas. There are no elevators at this location.

Although most of the buildings have A/C, there may be some that do not. Some buildings rely on natural lighting from open doors and windows.

Lutherville, MD ADA Site Specific Conditions

This trial location is in an urban area with many businesses located nearby. There are indoor restrooms available at this site and are located on ground level. The parking lots are paved and/or loose gravel. There is handicap parking available. Pathways from the parking lot to search areas are mostly on pavement and are a short distance. Most searches are on ground level, however, there may be some stairways to/from search or staging areas, and there may be a few steps entering, within, or exiting search areas. There may be one or two steps without a handrail. Interior floors may have carpet, wood or sealed concrete flooring that could be slippery. Exterior search areas may be on pavement, gravel, dirt or grass. Vehicles, exteriors, or containers may be on a slightly sloped paved area.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the

location, these conditions may be modified at the last minute.

Trial Conditions

Modeled after real-life detection work, NACSW trials are held in many different locations, with a variety of terrain, under varying weather conditions. Dogs and handlers need to be able to safely negotiate a variety of surfaces, including, but not limited to, tile, linoleum, carpeting, gravel, asphalt, uneven surfaces, and slippery footing. Handlers should be prepared to deal with a variety of weather conditions, including heat, cold, rain and snow. Trials frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and generally require that this be done across natural, uneven surfaces. Handlers should be prepared for the physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain with their dog accordingly. Participants should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at trials. Please be prepared for you and your canine partner to deal with all of these varying environmental challenges. Handlers should familiarize themselves with potential regional risks and health concerns that may affect themselves or their dogs. Handlers agree that they are entering this trial at their own risk.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, these conditions may be modified at the last minute.

Parking:

Parking at Easton is on grass or packed gravel. Parking at Lutherville is on pavement. There is little to no shade in the competitor parking lots. Since this trial takes place during summer, competitors should be prepared for hot or wet conditions in the parking lot (see running cars in parking lot below). Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in the availability of areas at the location, the expected search areas, parking, and pathways to the search areas may be modified at the last minute.

Reactive Dog Parking:

There will be reactive dog parking areas at both locations for this trial for those who wish to park in this area. There will be a reactive dog potty area, however this may be a smaller area or longer walk. There will not be separate warm up boxes. Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, this policy may be modified at the last minute.

Unentered Dogs

Unentered dogs must remain in the competitor's vehicle during the trial day. There will be ample potty areas, but unentered dogs should not be allowed to "play," exercise, or train on the trial grounds. Please make other arrangements for unentered dogs that are in season, as they should not accompany participants to the trial.

RV Parking:

This trial location has RV parking for competitors and volunteers DURING THE DAY. RVs must be fully self-contained (the facility does not provide water, electricity, gas or sewage dump). You do not need to reserve RV space but please notify the host as a courtesy when bringing large vehicles. Be aware that parking on pavement or packed gravel can become limited when weather conditions are rainy and the ground is soft. Overnight RV parking is not allowed at Easton, but is allowed at Lutherville. There are other sites such as campgrounds and RV parks within a half hour driving time that allow overnight RV parking with some offering possible water, electricity, sewage, etc. It is the competitor/volunteer's responsibility to make other arrangements for overnight parking.

Running Vehicles or Generators in the Parking Lot:

Running your vehicles or generators in the parking lot is allowed at this trial. We ask that you show consideration for fellow competitors parked near you, remain away from staging areas, warm up boxes and parking lot numbers. There may be a separate parking area for those needing to run generators due to exhaust and noise.

August weather in Maryland is typically hot and you may wish to run your vehicles to keep cool. Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in the availability of areas at the location, this policy may be modified at the last minute.

Facility/Site Prohibitive Restrictions (e.g., smoking, firearms, alcohol, drugs, video)

There is no smoking, firearms, alcohol or drugs allowed at either of the trial locations.

Hotels and Directions:

There are hotels located within 20 minutes from each site. Please reach out to the host if you have difficulty finding one.

DOG INFORMATION

Dog Policies

- All dogs must be on a 6' leash at all times when not being tested. NO flexi-leashes while not participating in a competition search.
- Dogs that need space from dogs may wear a red bandana, provided by the dog's handler, to help signal others that the dog needs extra space from other dogs.
- Dogs will be toileted in designated areas and handlers must pick-up and dispose of waste.
- Dogs and handlers must stay in designated areas to avoid contaminating testing space, interrupting a test, or from viewing any part of the testing.
- Competitors should expect to keep their dogs confined in a crate or vehicle when not competing. The logistics of a trial typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Competitors should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.

- Refer to Location Details (above) for information on unentered dogs.

Females in Season

Females in season will be allowed to run wearing “pants” at the end of each search after all other dogs have been judged. Handlers with females in season should park and toilet their dogs away from the other dogs if the location logistics permit. Handlers must contact info@corneliaheckenbach.com so plans can be made for the dog. Please make other arrangements for unentered dogs that are in season, as they should not accompany participants to the trial.

OTHER INFORMATION

COVID-19 Information

Event attendees are required to adhere to the NACSW COVID-19 Event Guidelines and Rules
In addition to those guidelines the following changes and guidelines are in effect for this trial due to COVID-19.

- All attendees must bring a face mask in the event mask policies change for this area. The type of face mask and how to properly wear the face mask must align with CDC guidance found here.
- All attendees are asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

If there are any significant changes or updates after the draw period, entrants will be notified via email. Competitors are responsible for staying up to date on any jurisdictional requirements for their home location as well as the trial location including any travel guidance.

Rules

Complete rules are available at www.NACSW.net. **It is the responsibility of each competitor to read and understand the current NACSW Rule book prior to participating in a NACSW event.**

Liability

By registering for the trial, the competitor hereby assumes all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to her/himself or to her/his property or to others, resulting from the actions of her/his dog. The competitor expressly agree that the NACSW, Fair Play Labradors and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups, shall not be held liable personally, or collectively, under any circumstances, for injury, and/or damage to her/himself, for loss or injury to property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes. The competitor also agrees to assume all financial liability that may be incurred by the NACSW due to the actions of themselves or their dogs regardless of the cause.

Sportsmanship

All competitors/handlers and spectators are expected to follow the rules of the NACSW and demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes making sure the hide placements are unknown to the handler prior to testing and kept secret from other competitors. Please do not discuss hide placement or any details of a dog's performance that may provide information or clues to other handlers or may be overheard.

NACSW Results

Results for each search and overall will be posted after all searches are completed and scores are verified for you to record your results for your own records. It is your responsibility to ensure your scores are accurate prior to leaving trial grounds. If a discrepancy cannot be verified at the

trial, you may be instructed to submit a score card review request. It is not the responsibility of the host or NACSW to return score sheets that are left behind or to mail ribbons that are not picked up.

Spectators:

Additional guests are welcome, however spectating opportunities may be limited.
Please verify attendance policies with the host before bringing or inviting anyone not volunteering, competing, or officiating.
Please contact info@corneliaheckenbach.com if you have further questions.

Spectators may not photograph or video searches.
Spectators are reminded that the hide placements must not be discussed nor should they speak with any competitors about what they saw until after the trial is complete.
No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the trial.
An adult accompanying a minor must be present during the searches.
Everyone at the trial site must sign the waiver provided by the host and comply with all event requirements.
Competitors are not allowed to watch the trial at any time.

Videotaping and Photography

If the site allows public video to be taken, handlers may wear visible head or chest cameras to record their searches. You will not be allowed extra time at the start line to get your camera functioning. Please be sure it is ready to go prior to arriving at the search area. Videos may not be made public until completion of the event day.
At the host's discretion, a photographer and/or video service may be present during the event to offer photos and/or videos for sale to the handlers. Fair Play Labradors will be taking video of the searches. Details will be available in the final details letter and at check-in.

There is no photography or video allowed by spectators or volunteers.

As a condition of your entry, you agree to allow NACSW, or their agents, to video you and your dog during the entirety of the NACSW event. These videos are the property of NACSW. All handlers, through entry at any NACSW event, waive any and all rights relative to video broadcast or photography of such event.

Volunteering

Handlers can volunteer for any trial that they are not running in during a trial weekend. If you are available and not running in the trial level, you are welcome to volunteer. If you know of someone who would like to volunteer, please find the link to the signup here or here.. Your time and effort are GREATLY appreciated!

Emergency Veterinary Hospital
The closest emergency veterinarians to the event location CAN BE FOUND HERE.

Questions:
All trial related questions, contact Cornelia Heckenbach at info@corneliaheckenbach.com or WonderWoman@redhuskies.com