

Get NDGAA-Certified at Our July 26 Grooming Competition

Everything to complete **before** you test — with NDGAA Certifier **Suzanne Lopez**, Certified Master Groomer.

Sun · July 26, 2026

Official NDGAA breed-trim certs

Lunch & prizes included

Read this first: NDGAA certification is now run through **AKC Canine College** (NDGAA is powered by the AKC). Membership, exams, and evaluations are all purchased and tracked in your AKC Canine College account. The steps below must be done **in order** — and your written exam must be **passed online before** your in-person practical on July 26. Start now; don't leave it to the last week!

YOUR STEP-BY-STEP PREP CHECKLIST

1 Become an NDGAA member

Purchase a **New NDGAA Membership** through AKC Canine College. You must be a member to certify. → nationaldoggroomers.com/membership

2 Pick your breed group & buy your Exam + Practical Portfolio course

On AKC Canine College, buy the course for the group you'll test in — **Non-Sporting**, **Sporting**, or **Terrier** — or grab the full **Exam & Practical Portfolio Bundle**. This includes your written exam and your practical portfolio. → [caninecollege.akc.org \(category 140477\)](https://caninecollege.akc.org/category/140477)

3 Study with the recommended materials

AKC Complete Dog Book (20th ed.) · AKC Breed ID Poster · *Notes from the Grooming Table* (Melissa Verplank) · **NDGAA Breed Profile Guidelines** (Barkleigh ProShop) · NDGAA breed profiles & study aids.

4 Pass your WRITTEN exam online — first! **DO BEFORE JULY 26**

Take the written exam through AKC Canine College. It's **proctored** — use **Google Chrome** and confirm your computer meets the proctoring requirements before you start. You must pass the written portion **before** your hands-on evaluation.

5 Buy the IN-PERSON Practical Evaluation course **REQUIRED**

Separately purchase the matching **in-person practical evaluation course** on AKC Canine College **before** the event. Without this purchase your evaluator cannot score you.

6 Save your PROOF OF PURCHASE — bring it to Suzanne

You must show proof of the practical course purchase to your evaluator on the day. Accepted: printed or emailed receipt, a screenshot of your order confirmation, your order number, an invoice, or a card/bank statement showing date, amount & vendor.

7 Bring a qualifying, fully-prepped dog

Your dog needs **at least 8 weeks of coat growth** suitable for scissoring/pattern work, in a certifiable breed for your group (see table). Arrive **bathed, fluff dried, dematted, nails trimmed, and ears cleaned** — all clipper & scissor work is done *during* testing. Bring your own tools and shears.

8 Know your time limit & scoring

Check your breed's time allotment below. You need an **85% average** across written and practical tests to qualify toward your Master (NCMG) designation. Scores post to your AKC Canine College portfolio.

CERTIFIABLE BREEDS & TIME ALLOTMENTS

GROUP	BREEDS	TIME ALLOWED
Non-Sporting	Bichon Frise; Poodle (size-specific)	Bichon 1:45 · Poodle <11" 1:30, 11–17" 1:45, 17–23" 2:00, >23" 2:15
Sporting	American / English Cocker Spaniel, or Springer Spaniel	1:30
Long-Legged Terrier	Mini Schnauzer, Wire Fox, Bedlington, Soft-Coated Wheaten, Kerry Blue	Schnauzer & Wire Fox 1:30 · Bedlington/Wheaten/Kerry 2:00 · +30 min hand-stripping (optional)
Short-Legged Terrier	Scottish, West Highland White, Sealyham, Cairn (hand-stripped only)	Most 1:30 · Cairn 2:00 · +30 min hand-stripping (optional, except Cairn)

BRING ON THE DAY

- ✓ Proof of practical-course purchase
- ✓ Your qualifying, prepped dog
- ✓ Your own clippers, blades & shears
- ✓ Crate, grooming loop & supplies
- ✓ NDGAA membership confirmation

GOOD TO KNOW

- ✓ Fees (membership, each exam, each practical) are paid at AKC Canine College checkout — separate purchases
- ✓ Written exam must be passed first
- ✓ Compete for real prizes + certify the same day
- ✓ Process questions: groomer@akc.org

Reserve your spot → Fill out the form on our page, then pay via **Venmo @Low-Cost-Edu** or cash at the door. **Lunch & prizes included.** Come groom, compete, and earn your credential with us!
Email: utlowcostedu@gmail.com · Call: (385) 319-9737 · Venmo: [@Low-Cost-Edu](https://www.venmo.com/Low-Cost-Edu)