

READY FOR A GUIDE DOG?

Guide Dogs for the Blind
 800.295.4050 | guidedogs.com

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California Campus
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WHY A GUIDE DOG?

Guide dogs are far more than excellent
 mobility aids: they provide safety,
 independence, and inclusion.

What our grads say about the guide dog
 lifestyle:

*"I feel safe, comfortable, accepted, and just
 part of everyday life."*

*"Thank you for giving me my freedom,
 and the ability to go make my own joy in
 this world."*

*"My dogs have been my soul mates,
 my superheroes."*

WHY GDB?

Choosing to live the guide dog lifestyle is a big decision, so finding the right partner to help you along the way is critical. We are committed to your success before, during, and long after the time you spend with us in class.

- All services are provided at no cost — this includes your guide, transportation to and from one of our campuses, instruction, and more.
- Our classes are two weeks long, minimizing disruption to your personal and professional commitments.
- We provide highly customized instruction; classes generally have 6-8 students and the ratio of students to instructors is 2:1.
- Students enjoy private rooms with wifi access, and our beautiful student residences have libraries, music, computer, and exercise rooms.
- GDB provides graduates with a lifetime of support. GDB graduates become part of a world-class alumni association and also receive the following benefits: financial assistance for veterinary care, as needed; in-person follow up visits; access to a dedicated support center; and when the time comes for a guide to retire, we can discuss the potential for a successor dog.

Learn more at [guidedogs.com](https://www.guidedogs.com).



READINESS

Before you decide to apply to the GDB program, it's important to assess your interest and readiness. You can use the series of questions on the following pages to help you guide your decision.

- Have you been declared legally blind by an ophthalmologist?
- Do you walk to destinations by yourself with a cane, or a guide dog? Does your routine include regular outings for work, school, errands, or exercise, etc.?

- Are you confident in your orientation and mobility skills? Are you comfortable generalizing these skills to environments other than your home area?
- Are you able to comfortably walk a distance of roughly one mile, on a daily basis? If not, are you willing to develop the stamina and ability to walk this distance? If you need to take a short rest during a walk of this length, you may still benefit from having a guide dog.
- Are you willing to travel with less tactile awareness of your environment? Consider that guide dogs are trained to avoid obstacles rather than locate them (as a long cane does).



- If you have a degree of functional vision, do you feel that you can trust a dog to guide you even if the dog picks a slightly different path than you would have chosen?
- Living and working with a guide dog involves interdependence between the handler and the dog. Do you accept the responsibility to be a consistent and fair partner in the relationship?
- A guide dog will need quality food, several opportunities each day to relieve, grooming, veterinarian visits, playtime, and affection from its partner. Can you provide for the physical and emotional needs of this working companion?
- Are those who live with you comfortable with having a dog in the home and are they willing to comply with some basic guidelines GDB provides regarding the care, control, and behavior of your dog? What about your friends and co-workers?
- Would you enjoy having more contact with the public? Partnering with a guide dog frequently attracts the admiration and interest of people around you.
- Do you like the idea of having a dog around when your guide is off duty? This animal is usually with you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A significant portion of having a guide dog is simply enjoying his or her companionship.



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- Do you feel that you can trust a dog to guide you even if the dog picks a slightly different path than you would have chosen?
- Do you accept the responsibility to be a consistent and fair partner in a relationship with a guide dog?
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- Are those with whom you live and work comfortable with having a dog in the home and are they willing to comply with some basic guidelines GDB provides regarding the care, control, and behavior of your dog?
- Would you enjoy having more contact with the public?
- Do you like the idea of having a dog around when your guide is off duty?

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