



Volunteer Application

Thank you for your interest in Vision Guide Dogs, Inc. volunteer opportunities. Your application will be reviewed once completed and submitted. We will email you with the information about our Volunteer Training Program. You must be at least **16 years** of age to volunteer. **If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or legal guardian will need to attend the Volunteer Orientation with you.**

Please email info@visionguidedogs.org or call (830) 206-0626 with any questions.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Last Name:		First Name:		Date of Birth:	
Address:			City:		State:
Email Address:			Employer/School:		
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:		Work Phone:	

* Signature required of parent/legal guardian if applicant is under 18 years of age.

Have you been convicted of or reported for animal cruelty in the past?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain: _____

Section 2: Emergency Contact

Last Name:		First Name:		Relationship:	
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:		Work Phone:	

Section 3: Driver's License Info

If you would like to be added to our Volunteer Driver list (Minimum 21 Years Old):

Do you have a valid driver's license and car insurance? Yes _____ No _____

*To be eligible to volunteer as a driver, there is an additional form that must be completed.



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Section 4: Volunteer Interest

Volunteer Opportunity:	Interested: (Mark "X")
Puppy Raiser	
Puppy Sitter	
Advanced Training Dog Boarder	
Ambassador	
Sighted Guide Educator	
Event Support	
Social Networking Event Planning	
Sighted Guide	
Driver (Minimum 21 Years Old)	

Volunteer Descriptions

- **Puppy Raiser:** Socialize and work on basic obedience with a guide dog-in-training from the time the puppy is 8 weeks old until they are about 1 to 1.5 years old.
- **Puppy Sitter:** Watch a guide dog-in-training for brief periods when a puppy raiser is out-of-town, sick, or requires a break.
- **Advanced Training Dog Boarder:** Watch a guide dog-in-training that is in the advanced training phase on the weekends.
- **Ambassador:** Spread awareness about the mission of Vision Guide Dogs during special events and as a guest speaker in front of groups.
- **Sighted Guide Educator:** Use Vision Guide Dogs' education material to teach others how to safely and effectively assist individuals with low or no vision better navigate the physical spaces around them.
- **Event Support:** Help prepare for, set up, and/or facilitate special events on behalf of VGD.
- **Social Networking Event Planning:** Plan fully inclusive social networking events for both sighted and non-sighted members of the community.
- **Sighted Guide:** Assist an individual who is blind or visually impaired move effectively and safely in public and private settings.
- **Driver:** Transport a blind or visually impaired neighbor and their guide dog, if they have one, to a VGD-sponsored event.



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Section 5: Waiver/Release of Liability

_____ releases **Vision Guide Dogs (VGD)**, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas and each of its directors, officers, and agents. The signer of this waiver desires to provide services for **VGD** and engage in activities related to serving as a volunteer by performing associated duties. A Volunteer is defined as a Community Service Worker, a Vendor, or Contractor that is participating in onsite functions.

Volunteers understand that the scope of a volunteers' relationship with **VGD** is limited to a volunteer position and that no compensation is expected in return for services provided by the volunteer. Volunteers agree to attend orientation and dog training, if applicable, before engaging in volunteer services on behalf of **VGD**. **VGD** will not provide any benefits traditionally associated with employment to a volunteer. The volunteer is responsible for his/her own insurance coverage in the event of personal injury or illness as a result of volunteer services to **VGD**.

Contractors (paid or donated) understand that the scope of a contractors' relationship with **VGD** is limited to the agreed position, duties, and hours, and that compensation will be provided for agreed services provided by the contractor. **VGD** will not provide any benefits traditionally associated with employment to a contractor; and that the contractor is responsible for his/her own insurance coverage in the event of personal injury or illness as a result of services to **VGD**.

(1) Waiver and Release: I, the volunteer/contractor, release and forever discharge and hold harmless **VGD** against any and all liability, claims, demands of whatever kind of nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise for the services I, the volunteer/contractor, provide to **VGD**. I understand and acknowledge that this Waiver and Release discharges **Vision Guide Dogs** from any liability or claims that I may have against **VGD** with respect to bodily injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from the services that I provide to **VGD** or occurring while I am providing volunteer services.

(2) Insurance: Further, I understand that **VGD** does NOT assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide me, the volunteer, with financial or other assistance, including but not limited to medical health or disability benefits or insurance of any nature in the event of such injury or medical expenses incurred by me.

(3) Medical Treatment: I hereby release and forever discharge **VGD** from any claim whatsoever which may arise or may hereafter arise on account of any first-aid treatment or other medical services rendered in connection with any emergency during my tenure as a volunteer with **VGD**.

(4) Assumption and Risk: I understand that the services that I provide to **VGD** may include activities that may be hazardous to me, including but not limited to any dog-related activities such as walking, petting, and cleaning up after the animals. Also, bending and lifting of dog kennels and **VGD** supplies and/or equipment. I hereby expressly assume the risk of injury or harm from these activities and release **VGD** from all liability for injury, illness, death or property damage resulting from the services that I provide as a volunteer or occurring while I am providing volunteer services at **VGD**.



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Section 5: Waiver/Release of Liability (cont.)

(5) Photographic Release: I grant and convey to **VGD** all the right, title, and interests in any and all photographs, images, video, or audio recordings of me or my likeness or voice made by **VGD** in connection with my providing volunteer services to **VGD**.

(6) Animal Care: As a volunteer with **VGD**, I understand that I may be working with dogs and realize the importance of providing training that is consistent with the **VGD** training protocol. While interacting with the dogs, I will only implement training and redirection strategies that have been taught to me and/or authorized by the **VGD** puppy training department. I will not raise my voice excessively at the dogs or strike them for any reason. I understand that if I do any of these things I could be asked to forfeit any future opportunity to provide volunteer services to **VGD**.

(7) Dress Code and Professionalism: As a volunteer with **VGD** you are a representative of the organization and personal cleanliness and good grooming are essential. Your personal appearance and dress should be clean, neat, and professional at all times. **VGD** T-Shirts are encouraged for volunteers and mandatory for paid contractors. Your conduct should also be professional. Foul language and rowdiness will NOT be tolerated. As well, good customer service is expected of you if you are speaking to current or prospective clients.

(8) Other: As a volunteer/contractor, I expressly agree that this Waiver and Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the state of Texas and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of Texas. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision of this Waiver and Release is deemed invalid, the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this release shall not be affected.

THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE DURATION OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY, DURING THIS INITIAL AND ALL SUBSEQUENT EVENTS OF PARTICIPATION.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE Date: _____

*SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN RELATIONSHIP Date: _____
IF APPLICANT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

*PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (PRINT NAME)

*****PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY MAIL, EMAIL, OR IN PERSON AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS*****

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Background check completed by: _____ Date: _____

Volunteer accepted: Yes No

Additional notes: _____