



Service Dog Trainer II

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Summit Assistance Dogs is a nonprofit organization that creates life-changing partnerships by providing highly-skilled mobility service dogs for people living with disabilities. We are seeking a qualified service dog trainer to join our dynamic team. Learn more about Summit Assistance Dogs at www.summitdogs.org.

The Service Dog Trainer II position requires advanced level service dog training skills and knowledge, experience with client placement and training, and experience with training class instruction. Potential candidates must also be comfortable working with inmates within a prison environment.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Dog training

- Provide advanced level training for dogs to be placed as mobility assistance animals (typically includes, but is not limited to, teaching retrieval of items, tugging open and pushing closed doors, tugging off clothing, targeting buttons and switches, teaching various behavior chains, proofing behaviors in a variety of settings).
- Keep training records and complete required level tests for dogs in training.
- Provide weekly written progress reports.

Client assessment, matching, training and follow-up support

- Assess clients for suitability with various dogs.
- Assist with client matching process for dogs in training.
- Provide instruction to clients during the team training process.
- Provide follow-up support and yearly recertification for clients.

Instruction

- Lead the training instruction for inmates participating in our prison program.
- Provide training instruction for volunteers participating in our puppy raising program.

Other

- May require personally housing a dog from time to time to assess in-home behaviors or to train home-based behaviors.
- Communicate regularly with Training Program Director and members of staff as needed.
- Assist with outreach events and presentations that require a trainer.



Desired Skills/Attributes:

- Friendly, respectful, customer-service oriented.
- Flexible, open-minded, able to adapt to change and incorporate new learning.
- Energetic, positive, self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision.
- Team player with the ability to communicate diplomatically and effectively, both verbally and in writing, with staff, clients, volunteers, general public.
- Advanced level mobility service dog training and client placement skills preferred, but on-the-job training may be available for an otherwise qualified service or guide dog trainer .
- Proven ability to lead instruction of dog training classes. Experience working in a prison program is desirable.
- Proven canine behavioral assessment skills.
- Knowledgeable about general dog care.
- Able to identify and plan for training milestones subject to dogs' individual capacities.
- Compassionate and humane treatment of animals at all times.
- Respectful of clients and able to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to effectively instruct and motivate clients and volunteers.
- Strong organizational and results-oriented record keeping skills.
- Physically able to work with powerful, adolescent dogs and should be able to lift up to 50#.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Valid driver's license and ability to travel.
- Ability to transport 2 dogs in personal vehicle.
- Ability to personally house a dog in training, when needed.

Reports To: Training Program Director (currently Executive Director)

Base Pay: \$40,560 - \$45,760 annual salary DOE

Hours: Full-time, 40 hrs. per week

Benefits: Vacation, holiday and sick pay, medical insurance, small daily stipend if housing a dog

How to apply: Email cover letter and resume to sue.meinzinger@summitdogs.org.