



What Does Working With Loyal Guardians Look Like?

Time Commitment & Financial Overview

Thank you for your interest in working with Loyal Guardians Service Dog Training, our nonprofit service dog program.

Because service dog training is a significant commitment for both the handler and the dog, we have a structured process to ensure the right fit for everyone involved.

Step 1: Interview Process

All applicants begin with an interview process. This allows us to:

- Understand your specific medical, physical, or emotional needs
- Learn about your home and lifestyle
- Determine whether a service dog is the appropriate support tool
- Ensure our program is the right fit for you

Not every applicant is automatically accepted into the program. Our goal is to set both handlers and dogs up for long-term success.

Step 2: If You Already Have a Dog

If you have your own dog that you would like trained as a service dog, we require:

- **A full evaluation**
- **A formal temperament test**
- **Drive and stability assessment**

This ensures the dog has:

- **The correct temperament**
- **The appropriate confidence level**
- **The right working drive**
- **Environmental stability**
- **The ability to handle public access work**

Not all dogs are suited for service work, even if they are wonderful family pets. Our responsibility is to protect both you and the dog by ensuring a safe and realistic outcome.

Step 3: Training Timeline

Service dog training is not quick training.

Most dogs require approximately 18–24 months (around 2 years) to complete our program fully.

This includes:

- **Foundational obedience**
- **Advanced public access training**

- **Task training specific to your needs**
- **Proofing in real-world environments**
- **Handler education and transfer sessions**

Consistency and handler participation are essential throughout the process.

Financial Structure

Loyal Guardians operates as a nonprofit organization. Our training fees are offered on a sliding scale based on financial need.

The full cost to raise and train a service dog is significant, often exceeding \$20,000–\$30,000 in traditional programs. Our nonprofit model allows us to reduce that burden substantially through:

- **Sliding scale tuition**
- **Fundraising efforts**
- **Sponsorship opportunities**
- **Payment plans when appropriate**

Specific costs are discussed after the interview and evaluation process, as each case is unique.

What We Look For in Handlers

We look for individuals who are:

- **Committed**

- **Willing to follow training protocols**
- **Able to dedicate time weekly**
- **Open to coaching and feedback**
- **Ready for a 2-year journey**

A service dog is a partnership — not a quick solution.