

Every seven minutes,
someone in
America will
**become
blind**
or visually
impaired.

—American Foundation for the Blind



GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT



GuideDogs
OF THE Desert 

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Please visit our
Education and Retail Facility



Guide Dog Depot
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Look for us on Facebook 

Guide Dogs of the Desert is a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation.
Federal Tax ID # 23-7296531

GuideDogs
OF THE Desert 

We Train Heroes!

Since 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert has worked to connect people in need with the tools they require for success: the increased freedom, companionship and safety that only a trained guide dog can provide. We've graduated more than 1,200 client and dog teams in our years of service.

We hold residential classes for up to 30 students and custom trained guide dogs each year at our campus outside Palm Springs, California. We keep our class sizes small and focus on the individual needs of our clients.



Mission Statement

Guide Dogs of the Desert improves the lives of the blind by creating opportunities for life-changing independence, and by conducting community outreach and education programs.

What does it take to become a guide dog?

There are 5 stages to the guide dog program

Breeding — We breed our own dogs at our facility to ensure the highest quality dogs.

Puppy raising — Volunteers raise our guide dog puppies from three months of age until 15 months. With the guidance of staff, they expose the puppies to the sights and sounds of the world around them.

Formal training — Our dogs are trained for 6-10 months to learn how to work as a guide dog in harness.

On campus training — The blind applicants and the dogs specifically selected for them, live at our facility for 28 days to learn how to work as a team.

Post graduate support — Our licensed instructors provide follow-up assistance for the life of the team.

“With your help, we can each become someone’s hero.”



“With a cane you find all the obstacles in your way. With a guide dog you never knew the obstacles existed.”

Free to the blind

We provide all our services to the blind at **no charge**. This includes:

- Trained guide dog for each student
- All related equipment
- 28-day residential stay on campus (lodging, meals and customized client/dog team training)
- Post graduate follow-up for the life of the team

Your Support is Important

We invite you to help us continue our legacy of commitment to the partnership between guide dogs and the blind. Please tour our campus, visit our Guide Dog Depot retail and training center in downtown Palm Springs, or make a donation to help a puppy become a hero.