



4-H GUIDE DOG AND SERVICE ANIMALS



Guide dogs and service animals are used in a wide variety of applications in society. The program is designed to work with the Guide Dogs for the Blind training program and provide additional knowledge in the area of other types of service animals.

- Learn basic principles of dog training and handling
- Demonstrate knowledge of dog health and care including nutrition, common health concerns, and grooming procedures
- Learn the history and use of types of service animals in America today.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn about which animals can be used as service animals.
- Identify breeds of service dog.
- Understand the anatomy of a dog
- Learn how to properly groom a dog and identify equipment.
- Research the history of Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Understand safe handling practices for dogs.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn about and attend basic obedience training with your dog.
- Create a house training plan.
- Learn about dog nutrition.
- Identify common diseases and parasites, and their treatment.
- Find out what makes a service dog different from a pet dog.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Complete the training program with Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Demonstrate knowledge of what makes a good guide dog.
- Visit different businesses to learn about career opportunities with dogs.
- Create a presentation of the steps in dog training.
- Learn about dog genetics and how they affect health.
- Research important issues in dog ownership.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

4-H Thrive!

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Visit your veterinarian and learn about dog first aid.
- Create a display of different ways dogs are used as service animals, highlighting why dogs are the best animals for the job.

Healthy Living

- Learn about the diseases dogs and people can share. Discuss the importance of hygiene with your animal.
- Find activities you can do with your dog, and learn why staying active is important.
- Learn about what happens to service animals when they get older.

Citizenship

- Raise your guide dog.
- Visit and volunteer at your local animal shelter.
- Teach your club how to safely approach and interact with a dog.

Leadership

- Teach others about the ways service animals participate in your community.
- Take on the position of junior/teen leader to be a role model to others interested in service animals.

Resources

- Guide Dogs for the Blind: welcome.guidedogs.com/
- Guide Dogs of America: www.guidedogsofamerica.org

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Guide Dog Graduation: if your dog passes further training after he/she goes back to the Guide Dog agency, attend their graduation ceremony, and invite others to join you.

Curriculum

- **Wiggles and Wags:** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-dog/08166.aspx>
- **Canine Connection** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-dog/08167.aspx>
- **Leading the Pack** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-dog/08168.aspx>
- **Dog Helper’s Guide** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-dog/08169.aspx>

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

