What to Expect

STEP	WHAT HAPPENS
1. Apply	Complete our online volunteer application so we can learn about your interests, household, availability, and experience.
2. Connect	Our team will review your application and contact you to discuss the program, answer questions, and identify possible opportunities.
3. Complete Onboarding	All volunteers complete orientation, an interview, a background check, and required training. A home visit is also required for opportunities involving a dog in the home.
4. Prepare	Complete role-specific training and, when applicable, meet the dog and attend training classes with our staff.
5. Begin Volunteering	Once approved and matched with an opportunity, you will receive ongoing guidance and support from the Assistance Dogs team.

Before You Apply

Because many opportunities involve caring for an Assistance Dog in Training, volunteers should be prepared for several core expectations. Requirements will vary for applicants pursuing only non-housing roles:

- Live in a non-smoking household within reasonable driving distance of The Ability Center in Sylvania, Ohio.
- Have reliable transportation for classes, appointments, dog transitions, or other volunteer responsibilities.
- For dog-handling roles, be able to safely care for and manage a growing dog, with or without a reasonable accommodation.
- Follow all program training, care, safety, communication, and documentation requirements.
- For home-based roles, have no more than two personal dogs and three cats. Household pets must meet program health requirements.
- Complete orientation, a background check, and required volunteer training.

Thank you for considering joining our mission to transform lives through the incredible bond between people and dogs.