



SAINT FRANCIS  
SERVICE DOGS

**Job Title:** Trainer

**Location:** 8232 Enon Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24019

**Reports to:** Operations Director

**To Apply:** Send resume' and cover letter to Deborah Duerk ([dduerk@saintfrancisdogs.org](mailto:dduerk@saintfrancisdogs.org))

**Position Type:** Full-Time, Salaried

**Salary:** \$25,000-30,000/year

### **WHO WE ARE**

Saint Francis Service Dogs is an Assistance Dogs International Accredited organization whose mission is to assist children and adults with disabilities become more independent and self-sufficient through partnership with a professionally trained service dog. Saint Francis is also committed to promoting the use and acceptance of service dogs through public and professional education, providing advocacy for service dog partners, and supporting the growth of the service dog industry on a national level. We are a non-profit based on a beautiful 18 acre farm in Roanoke, Virginia. We serve the entire state of Virginia and areas in West Virginia and North Carolina that are within a three hour drive from our facility.

### **WHAT WE DO**

Saint Francis Service Dogs raises, trains and places exceptional dogs with extraordinary people. We are a human service organization deeply committed to helping people with disabilities better experience the world around them through a partnership with a service dog. In fulfillment of our mission, we operate two key services. Placing service dogs with people with physical and developmental disabilities is our primary goal. Placing facility dogs with handlers working in healthcare, education and courtroom settings is our second service.

### **WHAT YOU'LL DO**

Our dogs change lives in ways great and small. They are trained to complete tasks and skills to assist in the activities of daily living. In addition to the tangible benefits, the emotional bond between human and dog results in increased motivation and social interaction, higher self-

esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. The peace of mind that comes from knowing that the dog can both provide physical assistance and seek help if needed is invaluable. A staff trainer's role is crucial in creating and maintaining these successful partnerships for the people we serve.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Maintains a string of 4-5 dogs, overseeing daily care and training to ensure dogs are being trained to the standard required for our program
- Supervise foster families when housing dogs in training
- Maintains each dog's appearance by daily grooming
- Exercises the dogs daily, or oversees volunteers
- Completes monthly training and health paperwork on each dog
- Coordinates with Kennel Manager for veterinary care
- Cleans training house and garage kennels
- Assists with matching interviews
- Assists with Certifications and Re-Certifications for Partner Teams
- Assists with Candidate Class
- Assists with Team Training
- Represent Saint Francis at Presentations/Demo for Outreach and Public Relations when needed
- Other duties assigned when necessary

### **WHAT YOU'LL NEED**

At Saint Francis, we have a small, passionate staff dedicated to providing the highest level of service for the people we serve. We also have a lot of fun while we are doing it! We value a cooperative spirit, positive attitude, and willingness to learn and adapt to change.

### **Requirements**

- Strong background and experience in dog training
- Possess the physical stamina and ability to handle large breed dogs ranging in age from puppy to 3 years old
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong organizational skills and ability to keep accurate records
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to cultivate and keep a positive work environment
- Dedication to helping people with disabilities
- Possess a general love and compassion for dogs