



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA

a child who connects to a dog connects to the world

Dear Applicant,

Please print, fill out, and sign the documents in the attached application and return your completed application to our office:

Autism Service Dogs of America
20340 SW Boones Ferry Road, Suite A
Tualatin, OR 97062

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. A small, recent photo of the applicant.
2. Documentation of a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder
3. A prescription for a service dog from your medical provider (recommended, but not required)
4. Medical statement of allergies (if applicable)
5. Three statements describing the applicant's autism, challenges, and needs from extended family members, current service providers, teachers, or friends of the family
6. A 15-minute video showing:
 - Your house and home environment, including your yard
 - Introducing all family members
 - Showing how the applicant interacts with a dog
 - It is important for us to also see a variety of behaviors from the applicant. These could be:
 - Engaging in preferred and non-preferred activities
 - Experiencing transitions
 - Communicating wants and needs
7. All questionnaires, charts and signed acknowledgements
8. \$30 application fee

We ask that you please visit our website, www.autismservicedogsofamerica.org, and review how our program works so when we speak on the phone you have an understanding of your participation in training, fundraising, and the placement process.

On the application, please highlight the best number to reach you, as well as the best time of day. If your application is approved, we will contact you within 4-6 weeks for a final phone interview.

If you have questions please contact us through e-mail at: info@autismservicedogsofamerica.org

Sincerely,

Kati Wolfe

Kati Wolfe
Placement and Training Director
Autism Service Dogs of America

Autism Service Dogs of America Application

STEP ONE: Please fill out all forms, questionnaires and charts.

ASDA recognizes that the demand for autism service dogs is high and availability is limited. Due to the demand, ASDA must qualify applicants. ASDA advises families to apply as early as possible.

Please type or print legibly

Applicant's name: _____ DOB _____

Primary caregiver name: _____ Relationship to applicant _____

Secondary caregiver name: _____ Relationship to applicant _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Does the secondary caregiver live with primary caregiver? Yes ____ No ____

Secondary caregiver residence if different than above:

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Does the applicant or anyone who lives in the home have *significant* allergies to dogs? Yes* ____ No ____

**If Yes, please provide medical documentation.*

Do you need a hypoallergenic dog? (Please note there may be a longer wait.) Yes ____ No ____

Have you owned a pet in the last 10 years? Yes ____ No ____

Type _____ Years owned _____

Type _____ Years owned _____

Do you currently have pets in the home? Yes ____ No ____

Type _____ Number _____

If you currently own a dog, what is the breed? _____ and age? _____

If you owned a dog in the last 10 years, but no longer do, please explain the reason:

Is the area you live in rural or urban? _____

Do you encounter many dogs in your neighborhood on a weekly basis? Yes ____ No ____

Do you live in a: House ____ Apartment/Condo ____ Townhouse ____ Other _____

What is the approximate square footage of your residence? _____ sq ft

How many bedrooms? _____ How many rooms for play or recreation? _____

Do you have a yard? Yes ____ No ____ Approximate _____ sq ft

Is your yard securely fenced? Yes ____ No ____ Height of the fence _____ ft

How many individuals live full time at your residence? _____

Name, age, and relationship to primary caregiver:

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Does the applicant have visitations with relatives without primary caregiver(s) present? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, *who*? _____

How often? _____ *How long*? _____

Does the applicant attend school? Yes ____ No ____ If no, why not? _____

Applicant's school: _____ Grade _____

Does the applicant have a one-on-one aide at school? Yes ____ No ____

If the applicant *will* attend school, what calendar year will the child attend school? Year 201 ____

If the applicant attends school, what month does school start and end? _____

Does the applicant attend summer school? Yes ____ No ____

Is the applicant or will the applicant be mainstreamed at school, attend special education classes, or some other program? Please explain:

Are you aware of any service dogs working in the school the applicant attends or will attend? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, what is the nature of the dog's service? _____

Does the applicant receive center-based or in-home therapy? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, how many therapists work with your child? _____ How many days a week? _____

Please list all therapies: _____

Does the primary caregiver work outside the home? Yes ____ No ____

Occupation of Primary Caregiver: _____

Occupation of Secondary Caregiver: _____

What activities does your family do for recreation? _____

Does your family participate in activities in the community? Yes ____ No ____

If no, why not? _____

If yes, what activities do you attend? How often? _____

Do you participate in outings around other animals (zoo, farm, aquarium)? How often? _____

Does your family participate in water activities (indoor/outdoor pool, beach, water parks)? How often? _____

Do you vacation as a family ? Yes ____ No ____ How often? _____

Any favorite destinations? _____

What means of travel do you use? Airplane ____ Train ____ Bus ____ Car ____

Can you afford an average of \$150 per month to support a service dog (medical care, hygiene, food, etc.)?

Yes ____ No ____

Where will the service dog sleep? _____

Where will the service dog rest? _____

Where would you exercise the service dog? _____

When and how often? _____

What are the major challenges you experience as a primary caregiver of an individual with special needs?

What are the challenges other family members experience? _____

How will a service dog change your life and that of other family members? _____

In what ways do you think a service dog might enhance the life of your applicant with special needs?

Primary Caregiver Briefly, what are your expectations for a service dog? _____

Secondary caregiver What are your expectations? _____

What concerns or reservations do you have with respect to owning a service dog? _____

Is there anything we have not asked that you feel is important for us to know about you, your applicant, or your family?

What are some of the applicant's strengths?

Please rate the following behaviors relevant to the applicant.

Please use the following scale to indicate the severity of each behavior:

1 2 3 4
 Not at all Problematic Very Problematic

	Behavior	Rating			
1	Acts impulsively or carelessly, without regard for consequences	1	2	3	4
2	Hits or hurts others	1	2	3	4
3	Damages or breaks things that belong to others	1	2	3	4
4	Screams or yells	1	2	3	4
5	Has sudden mood changes; demonstrates mood swings	1	2	3	4
6	Has temper tantrums or meltdowns	1	2	3	4
7	Has a low frustration tolerance; becomes easily angered or upset	1	2	3	4
8	Cries easily with minor provocation	1	2	3	4
9	Is overly quiet, shy, or withdrawn	1	2	3	4
10	Cries easily with minor provocation	1	2	3	4
11	Is underactive or lacking in energy; sedentary	1	2	3	4
12	Expresses worry about many things	1	2	3	4
13	Engages in compulsive behaviors; repeats certain acts over and over	1	2	3	4
14	Is overly concerned with making mistakes; is a perfectionist	1	2	3	4
15	Has toileting accidents	1	2	3	4
16	Hits or hurts him/herself	1	2	3	4
17	Becomes overly upset when others touch or move his/her belongings	1	2	3	4
18	Laughs or giggles at inappropriate times	1	2	3	4
19	Ignores or walks away from others during interactions or play	1	2	3	4
20	Becomes upset if routines are changed	1	2	3	4
21	Asks the same questions over and over	1	2	3	4
22	Engages in unusual mannerisms such as hand-flapping or spinning	1	2	3	4
23	Has to play or do things in the same exact way each time	1	2	3	4
24	Has difficulty calming him/herself down when upset or excited	1	2	3	4
25	Runs away from caregivers	1	2	3	4
26	Demonstrates hyperactive behaviors	1	2	3	4
27	Demonstrates aggressive behavior	1	2	3	4
28	Demonstrates awareness of typical environmental dangers	1	2	3	4

Are there other behaviors we should be aware of? _____

How often does a typical meltdown occur? _____

How long does it take the applicant to recover? _____

What are some common triggers? _____

Is the applicant: Verbal _____ Nonverbal _____

What system(s) does your child use to communicate? Check all that apply:

- _____ Spoken Language _____ Picture Exchange System (PECS)
_____ Sign Language _____ iPad (ProLoQuo2Go, LAMP Words for Life)
_____ Speech Generating Device (Dynavox, Tango, GoTalk, etc.)
_____ Other: _____

The applicant is able to use this system to:

- _____ Make requests _____ Initiate/Comment
_____ Answer questions _____ Engage in conversation

Does the applicant:

Have any sensory sensitivities? Check all that apply.

_____ Sound _____ Touch _____ Sight _____ Smell _____ Other: _____

Demonstrate impairments in eye contact and/or body language? Yes _____ No _____

Demonstrate the repetitive use of language or echolalia? Yes _____ No _____

Share enjoyment, interests or achievements with others? Yes _____ No _____

What are some of the applicant's interests (Legos, coloring, cars, etc)? _____

What are high motivators for your child? _____

Next: Please complete the attached charts carefully so that ASDA may have an idea of your routine, the applicant's routine, and your best estimate of what the service dog's routine will be. It's okay to guess if you're not sure, but please be realistic. Print legibly and please don't squeeze too much information into each box. The purpose is to give you and ASDA an idea of your routines and general lifestyle in order to assist with the tasks that will be required to care for the service dog, allowing you to consider how you will integrate those activities into your family lifestyle. It is not a test - there are no wrong answers.

Estimated Service Dog Routine: time (designate A.M or P.M. and a range of time) for each day's listed activity

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wake-up							
Breakfast							
Potty							
Walk /Exercise							
Service dog work							
Play/Exercise							
Unstructured Free-time							
Nap Time							
Eve Feeding							
Retire for the night							
TOTAL							

Applicant's routine: Day and time (fill in time, activity for all periods of each day)

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wak Breakfast							
Dress/leave							
Morning Activity							
Lunch							
Afternoon Activity							
Late Afternoon Activity							
Dinner							
Eve Activity							
Bedtime							

Primary caregiver's routine: Day and time (fill in time, activity for all periods of each day)

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wak Breakfast							
Dress/leave							
Morning Activity							
Lunch							
Afternoon Activity							
Late Afternoon Activity							
Dinner							
Eve Activity							
Bedtime							

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE DOG PLACEMENT**

Primary Caregiver: _____
(Print)

Secondary Caregiver: _____
(Print)

Recipient: _____
(Print)

Should our applicant be accepted into the ASDA program, we, the undersigned, will be required to demonstrate aptitude, competency, and a commitment to follow ASDA philosophy, education, standards and training. The undersigned agree that if any of the standards of veterinary care, health, grooming, cleanliness, and housing are not met, or if the service dog is repeatedly placed in danger or is receiving negligent care and/or treatment, ASDA has the absolute unequivocal right to permanently remove the service dog from our possession with or without notice. The undersigned agree that in this case no compensation and/or refund of the sponsor's or recipient's contribution or associated placement costs will be returned.

We understand that contributions are not payment for a service dog, nor a guarantee our applicant will receive a service dog. While contributions may be given to ASDA on behalf of a particular family, we understand those funds do not constitute a purchase. After we, the primary and secondary caregiver, have successfully completed ASDA fundraising requirements, educational training and made the required preparations to receive the service dog, ASDA service dog placement will proceed with the recipient and his or her family. On average, service dogs are placed with each family 18-20 months after fundraising is completed.

If at any time during the fundraising process, during team training, the transitional phase or the week of at home training, an ASDA representative determines the caregiver, caregiver's partner or family is unsuitable to continue placement of a service dog, ASDA may exercise its right as stated above to withdraw the service dog without monetary reimbursement to any party.

Primary Caregiver/Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Secondary Caregiver/Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA

a child who connects to a dog connects to the world

STEP TWO: Please obtain the following.

1. Obtain documentation of an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis from your medical provider.
2. Obtain a prescription for a service dog from your medical provider (*recommended*).
3. Provide statements of the applicant's autism, challenges, and needs from extended family members, service providers, teachers, or friends of the family. We require a minimum of three statements from three different sources.
4. A 15-20 minute video (on a DVD, flash drive, YouTube or via email) of:
 - Your home environment, showing us around your house and yard, and introducing us to your family members.
 - The applicant interacting with a dog. It is important for us to see the applicant's current behavior around dogs. The dog in the video may belong to a neighbor, friend or relative, but if you have dogs in the home, they must be included in the video also.
 - Some footage of your child in a variety of settings and/or moods. Our Trainers and Autism Specialists need to have a good understanding of your child's autism and specific behaviors so we can make the best match possible for your family.



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA

a child who connects to a dog connects to the world

STEP THREE: Sign and mail all documents with the following agreement.

I understand and accept the responsibility, financial investment, and care required of owning a (service) dog. All family members will respect the basic needs of the dog for proper diet, shelter, veterinary care, exercise, attention, and rest. If, at any time, I, or members of my immediate family, cannot meet the requirements of proper care, I understand the service dog is to be returned to Autism Service Dogs of America. I further agree to follow ASDA instruction regarding the required reading, training, and the transition and integration process of the service dog into our home.

Signed _____ Date _____
Full name of primary caregiver/service dog handler

Mail the printed application form & all documents along with a \$30 application fee to:

ASDA
20340 SW Boones Ferry Road, Suite A
Tualatin, OR 97062

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- A small picture of the applicant
- 15 minute video with all required components
- Documentation of an autism spectrum diagnosis (and allergies if applicable)
- Prescription from your medical provider (recommended)
- All questionnaires, charts and signed acknowledgements
- Three letters of recommendation
- \$30 application fee

ASDA will review and evaluate each applicant's qualification and need, and if accepted into the ASDA program, the applicant will be contacted within 4-6 weeks for a final phone interview.



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA

a child who connects to a dog connects to the world

Please read and keep the next two pages.

Before you continue with the final application it's important that you understand the time and investment required. Having an ASDA service dog will require a commitment by both parents to provide more than food and shelter. If you enter the ASDA program you will be given required reading to complete prior to your training in Oregon; you will discuss what you have learned, and you will have days of on-site and in-home training. You will be expected to follow ASDA instructions regarding the dog's transition into your home. The first three months after placement is a time of major adjustment for the dog, you, your child and the rest of the family, and as such, ASDA wants to be certain that the family is fully prepared for the personal investment and hard work required. It's fun and exciting too, but there is much to be done initially in preparation and during the first few months after home placement.

Although an ASDA dog is specially trained to perform specific tasks, he/she is still a dog. We require comprehensive reading of books and materials we recommend. Regardless of how many dogs you have owned in the past, ASDA requires that each family follow ASDA requirements, suggestions, training and guidelines before ASDA makes a permanent placement. This means that for a period of time the primary caregiver's work load is increased not reduced i.e., reading, training, practice, modifications in routine and adjustments to a new canine family member. If not in attendance during the first training phase, the secondary caregiver will also have reading, and will participate in the second phase of training. The secondary caregiver will need to lend support to his/ her spouse or partner. Integrating and transitioning a service dog into your home will require a team effort. All family members need to be on board to welcome a service dog. If one parent isn't supportive or involved in the process, the placement won't be successful.

Sometimes the expectation of the parent of a child with autism seeking a service dog is that the service dog will perform immediate miracles, and being a uniquely trained dog means the dog is fundamentally different than other dogs, a sort of "robot" dog that responds the instant you give a command; never makes a mistake; never sulks or barks, and never has an off day. Highly trained dogs are still dogs and all dogs have basic needs that must be met to be well balanced and perform consistently. A well-balanced dog is calm, friendly, and content. To a great extent a dog's mood, performance and quality of relationship depend on his/her environment, the amount of exercise, discipline and affection given by the human "pack-leader." The dog must have confidence in the leader/handler.



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA

a child who connects to a dog connects to the world

What's Next?

Over the course of the next four to six weeks, our Placement and Training Director will process your application, and contact you for a phone interview. At that time, additional information will be gathered, and you will have to opportunity to ask any questions you have about the program or process.

We know this is an exciting step for your family, and that you are eager to get started. ASDA appreciates families waiting to begin any fundraising activities until approved for an autism service dog. If approved, ASDA guides the family through the fundraising process and offers a fundraising packet with helpful information, including tips on setting up fundraising events, a sample fundraising letter, brochures, and a list of prospective charitable foundations and organizations.

For some families the fundraising phase may seem challenging. Parents are often amazed at the amount of support they receive from family, friends, neighbors, churches, local businesses, and community based organizations. There are many organizations and local businesses that would be interested in helping fundraise. There are also charitable foundations that award grants to families with children with autism.

With patience, determination, and support, fundraising can be rewarding and fun. Families discover a supportive and enthusiastic community of individuals and organizations willing to help you reach your goals and help your family.

ASDA Return and Refund Policy for Funds, Donations, Orders and Events:

We hope a return of funds does not become necessary. However, if you should need a refund we can accommodate those requests. Please notify us by mail within 30 days of the donation being made. After receiving your refund request we will issue the refund within 30 business days. Refunds cannot be issued for orders, funds received, or donations older than 30 days.