

Service Dog Training Instructor

Warrior Canine Connection – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) seeks a dedicated professional to serve as Service Dog Training Instructor in the Pittsburgh area. This unique role combines hands-on service dog training with volunteer and administrative coordination. The successful candidate will train Golden Retrievers and Labradors to become service dogs for Veterans, while also coordinating volunteers, supporting program operations, and advancing WCC's Mission Based Trauma Recovery (MBTR) model.

This is a mission-driven position that directly impacts the lives of Service Members and Veterans coping with combat-related stress, while strengthening WCC's community presence and volunteer engagement.

This is a full-time position with occasional weekend/evening hours.

What the job involves:

Service Dog Training & MBTR Program Delivery

- Train service dogs from puppyhood through IFT placement, following WCC training methodology and Assistance Dogs International standards.
- Lead one-on-one and group training sessions with Warrior Trainers, Puppy Parents, and volunteers.
- Provide MBTR services to recovering Warriors and their families at designated program sites in the Pittsburgh area (e.g., Duquesne University).
- Monitor and evaluate service dogs in training, maintain accurate training records, and make placement recommendations.
- Groom, care for, and transport dogs for veterinary exams and preventive care.
- Communicate with Puppy Parents regarding schedules, training progress, and problem behaviors.
- Support MBTR program compliance with HIPAA, patient goals, and facility regulations.

Volunteer & Administrative Management

- Recruit, onboard, and supervise Puppy Parents, Puppy Sitters, and volunteers.
- Create schedules and assignments that meet program needs and KPI goals.
- Maintain accurate records, documentation, and data entry in Salesforce.
- Coordinate volunteer classes, track attendance, and follow up with participants.
- Support community outreach, fundraising, and semi-annual celebrations.
- Represent WCC at events, presentations, and donor collaborations.
- Maintain inventory of canine supplies and equipment.

Community Engagement & Program Support

- Build and sustain relationships with referring agencies, community partners, and sponsors.
- Attend community events to further our mission.
- Assist with social media initiatives (e.g., Yappy Hour, Puppy Yoga).
- Support release dog placements and graduate team recertifications.
- Participate in staff meetings, professional development, and awareness activities.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum 1 year dog training or equivalent animal training experience. Service dog training preferred.
- Volunteer management experience.
- Strong communication, organizational, and administrative skills.
- Ability to lead training sessions and manage volunteers with diverse backgrounds.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office; Salesforce experience preferred.
- Ability to lift and carry items weighing up to 40 pounds.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

Desired Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in a related field.
- Experience working with Veterans or military families.
- Experience working with individuals with mental health challenges, TBI, or PTSD.
- Public speaking and community outreach experience.
- Familiarity with trauma-informed care and mission-based recovery models.
- Knowledge of service dog training or animal-assisted therapy programs.

Compensation & Benefits

- Salary range: \$40,000–\$50,000/year (commensurate with experience).
- Exceptional benefits including medical, dental, retirement plan, PTO, and paid holidays.

To Apply

Submit a cover letter and resume to HR@warriorcanineconnection.org with the subject line: "Service Dog Training Instructor - Pittsburgh."

Warrior Canine Connection is an equal opportunity employer.