

INTERVIEW VIDEO & TRAVEL ROUTE/SKILL DEMONSTRATION VIDEO

Your videos will help us evaluate your eligibility for our program and inform the determination of the right guide dog for your needs. The committee reviewing your videos will be observing your ability to: take direction from environmental features such as curbs, shorelines, traffic sounds & landmarks; listen to the sounds around you to help you navigate and determine an all clear “safe to cross”; maintain a straight line of travel; stay on task regardless of changes in time, environment, or distractions.

Part 1: Please include your thoughtful response to all of the following interview questions (it may be helpful for you to review the questions ahead of time so your answers can reflect a clear and informative response):

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself, are you currently working? What was your previous occupation?
2. What can you tell us about your vision? (Describe residual vision if any, the current prognosis, talk about how your vision has affected your daily life, etc.).
3. Tell us why you are applying for a guide dog and your reason for choosing Guide Dogs of the Desert.
4. Have you ever had a guide dog or attended a guide dog school? If so, please tell us about your experience and about the previous guides you have worked with.
5. Have you ever returned a guide dog to a guide dog school? If so, what were the reasons?
6. Have you had Orientation & Mobility training? Explain when and for how long. Did you receive instruction in outdoor travel skills (intersections, traffic controls, street crossings)? Indicate the length of time you’ve been an independent and confident cane traveler.
7. Please describe your home environment (house, mobile home, apartment, number of rooms, yard, length of occupancy, etc.). You are welcome to show us around and walk us through your home.
8. Where do you intend to relieve your dog?
9. Are there any other pets in the home? If so, please describe.
10. Who else lives in your home? Do they understand that unlike a pet, your guide dog is a working guide and that you, as the handler, are responsible for the physical care, and maintenance of the guide dogs’ specialized training?
11. Describe the types of areas where your dog will be working (residential, small or large business districts, mall, rural travel, etc.).
12. Do you volunteer or work at a location outside of the home? (Please describe your work/volunteer environment.) What is their attitude toward your having a guide dog?
13. What is your plan for accommodating the needs of your guide dog while at work (a place to stay, relieving area, etc.)?
14. In relation to the 28 day on campus training, and factoring in qualities for a compatible handler/guide dog team, is there any health information that you think we should know about?
15. Do you have a canine allergy or anyone in your immediate family have this allergy?

16. Other than understanding basic guide work, please describe the three most important traits you feel you need in your guide dog when it's working and explain your reasons (assertive, focused, alert, calm, etc.).
17. When your guide dog is not working, what personality traits would you like to see in your guide dog and explain why (affectionate, attentive, playful, friendly, etc.).
18. Are you willing to accept the guide dog that the experienced professionals at Guide Dogs of the Desert Training Department select as the most compatible for you?

Part 2: In addition to your interview video, the travel route and skill demonstration video should be at least ten minutes long. It needs to consist of:

- A brief introduction to your home area and any areas that you frequently travel. Show us under what conditions your dog would have to work. (For example, are there sidewalks; what type of traffic signal controls will you encounter; how busy are the streets; are there any loose or stray dogs and cats in your neighborhood, etc.)
- A demonstration of your orientation and mobility skills while traveling independently along one of the routes you intend to use following your GDD training. We want to see you walking this route. Ideally it should cover 8-10 blocks through your home or work environment. The video should demonstrate your ability to complete intersection analysis and understand traffic patterns to complete safe, independent street crossings. We're looking for a demonstration of your confident and efficient orientation and mobility skills. These traits are necessary to effectively direct a guide dog and to provide the essential leadership skills required for working a dog.
- A clear view of your gait, stride and speed of travel. Please indicate any balance problems or neuropathy. This will aid the trainers in evaluating your viability for becoming part of a guide dog team. If you still have a guide dog that you are planning to retire, you may want to include some work with your present guide.

NOTE: When sending Guide Dogs of the Desert Admissions team your completed videos, upload it to YouTube "unlisted" and email the web link to: admissions@gddca.org. The two videos together, should be about 25 minutes in length.

The web link below provides step-by- step directions on how to create an account with YouTube (on various devices), and also on "how to" upload videos onto one's account. Regarding creating an account, you will first need a Google Account, (many have a Gmail email with Google). Although the directions may be slightly different on how to create an account based on the device you are on, the video itself, is the same for all options.

Creating Account:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/161805?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en&oco=1>

Uploading Video:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the videos, please contact us at (760) 329-6257.