



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2019 Dog Days of Summer Children's Program

To enroll your child into Fidelco's **Dog Days of Summer Program**, please submit an application, payment, and waiver to:  
**Dog Days of Summer Program, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation**  
**103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002**

**What is covered in the program?** Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation's summer program is designed for the dog lover! Children learn about Fidelco's German Shepherd guide dogs – their development, training, and the amazing partnerships our guide dogs have with men and women who are blind. Participants will experience working with a guide dog as someone who is blind by participating in blindfold walks, and learning about the everyday challenges that people with visual impairments may face.

Children will also learn about other breeds and their origins, canine development, puppy raising, basic dog training, health care, grooming and first aid. They will work in our kennel, assisting with feeding and cleaning to help them understand the responsibility of dog ownership. Other topics of discussion include but are not limited to: anti-drug messaging, canine jobs outside of "guide dog" work, dog-related career opportunities for humans, and more!

**Will my child work directly with the dogs?** Yes, our program is hands-on and your child will work with dogs and puppies (puppies are 8 weeks to 1 year of age). There are two ambassador cats on campus and the child may be in contact with their dander.

**How long is the program?** Each program is 4 hours per day for one week from mid June to early August. The morning session is held from 8 am to noon and the afternoon session is held from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. The **doors will remain closed between sessions** to allow for set up and breaks between sessions.

**Can my child stay all day?\*** Due to the State of Connecticut program regulations, children are only allowed to stay for a half day.

**What are the ages of the children?** Child range is from 8 to 14 years old; sessions will be in age groups of 8-11 and 12-14.

**My child is over 11, can they still attend?** Children age 15 or older (by June 1, 2019) can volunteer as program helpers based on need. The role of Volunteer Assistant is extremely important and requires only the very serious to apply. Training is provided.

**How many children are in each session?** Each session has a maximum of 14 children.

**Can I stay with my child?** Most parents do not stay with their children; however, if your child has a special need or is more comfortable with you there, you are welcome to stay.

**Is the program held indoors or outdoors?** The majority of the program is held indoors in our air conditioned Training Center at the Bloomfield campus with occasional brief outdoor activities.

**Is food allowed?** We encourage all children to bring a snack and a drink. Each day, there will be an activity associated with their snack so **we ask that the child not be informed of what is being packed for them.**

**What else will my child need to bring?** Daily, the child should bring a bag or a backpack. This bag will be labeled with your child's name upon arrival. In addition to including their "secret" daily snack and beverage, the bag should also include a pair of sneakers and a change of clothes (sometimes they get wet!)

**Is transportation provided?\*** Transportation is not provided.

### **\*What is the pick up procedure?**

Unless otherwise communicated via email ([trowold@fidelco.org](mailto:trowold@fidelco.org)) in advance, your **child will only be released to the Parent/Guardian and/or Emergency Contact designated on your child's registration application.** Please inform those you've designated to be prepared to show **photo identification** at time of pick up – **EACH DAY.** This is to ensure the child's safety and your peace of mind.

We do not have designated staff or volunteers on hand to accommodate late pick ups. **Please ensure that your child is picked up promptly at the scheduled close of each session.** We do NOT need to be notified of who will be dropping your child off.