



Guide Dogs for the Blind

PUPPY RAISERS

Greetings!

James Madison FFA and San Antonio volunteers for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., will be hosting a statewide gathering for the Texas GDB Alumni, their Guide Dogs, Guide Dog Raisers, Volunteers, and Guide Dogs in Training in San Antonio, Texas on the weekend of Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31, 2019. The event is designed for the alumni, dog raisers, club leaders, and other volunteers who help to raise Guide Dog in-training to become working guides for blind or visually impaired. We expect more than 350 people and 150 Guide Dogs -in-training to attend this year, from all over Texas, California, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. Those in attendance will also include people with working guide dogs who bring unique insights into the future of the dogs we are preparing for this important life-changing role in the world. Guest speakers will come from the organization's headquarters in San Rafael, California as well as from Washington and Minnesota. We hope to minimize the costs to our attendees by raising funds to cover some of the expenses – and to make them feel welcome and appreciated in our wonderful city.

Friday afternoon (March 29) attendees will attend a Texas Pride Celebration at Texas Pride BBQ. Attendees will convene downtown San Antonio on the river walk on Saturday (March 30) for an “Amazing Race” adventure, which will expose our dogs to a wide range of stimuli to prepare them for guide work in their future. Media outlets will be notified and we have no doubt will feature us on the evening news. Saturday evening we will be back at the James Madison High School Gym for a Sensory Dinner where attendees will be blind folded and taken through a sensory journey to mimic those who deal with visual impairments daily. On Sunday morning, March 31, we will close out the weekend with a morning filled with educational presentations, activities for people and dogs, lunch and then welcome new puppies in training to Texas as well as sending some off to Guide Dog school.

We are looking for businesses to help us make this weekend fun and memorable for all the volunteers who spend their time on this worthwhile mission. Your financial or in-kind donations will help us to train future guide dogs from all around Texas as well as to equip the raisers with the tools and information that this event will provide. Your donation will be greatly appreciated by this non-profit, charitable organization (a 501(c)(3) corporation having Tax ID No. 94-1196195).

We are open to suggestions on what you would like to donate, and financial support is also welcome. You may donate by check or by credit card, and any amount will be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to “Guide Dogs for the Blind” with this notation on the check: “FOR JAMES MADISON FFA CLUB, ACCT. NO 16-09.” and mailed to P.O. Box 3950, San Rafael, CA 94912-3950. You may also donate online at: www.guidedogs.com/givetoclubs. In the dropdown list of Puppy Clubs, please choose TX JAMES MADISON FFA 16-09

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at jmcmull1@neisd.net or 210-421-0906. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

I look forward to hearing from you!

With warm regards,

Janell McMullan

Guide Dogs for the Blind – James Madison FFA Leader