

LOW COST | OUTDOORS | OUTREACH | OUTSIDE PRESENTER

# CAREER DOGS

## AGES

Teens

Adults

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Search and rescue dogs, K9 units, and therapy dogs! A local organization presents about working dogs' jobs and training process. Ideally, they also bring dogs to demonstrate some of their working tasks and/or commands. Be sure to ask them to talk about volunteer opportunities suitable for teens. Can be modified for any age group. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

If held inside, you might need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- Audience chairs

## UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

For local organizations that train and/or use dogs professionally, try local police departments, state search and rescue departments, and therapy/service dog organizations.

If the presenters do not need technology for their presentation, this program could also be held outdoors. Additional staff members or volunteers are recommended for large groups.

## RESOURCES

### Web

About service dog training: <https://bit.ly/2Aotaor>

YouTube video about service dogs: <https://bit.ly/2Albnyl>

Careers for dog lovers: <https://bit.ly/3bvnK7U>

Reading to therapy dog programs: <http://readingpaws.org>

Love on a Leash (nation-wide therapy pet chapters): <https://bit.ly/2yQDk0E>

Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States: <http://www.sardogsus.org/>

Companion Animal Psychology Book Club blog: <https://bit.ly/3ctMxdJ>

Accredited assistance dog organizations: <https://bit.ly/3btoM4c>

### TIP:

Once you make a connection with a local therapy animal organization, the partnership could easily translate into other library programs, such as reading with therapy dogs, therapy dog library visits, etc.

### TIP:

Make sure participants know whether they are allowed to touch the animals (some types of service dogs should not be touched).

### ADAPTATIONS:

For adults, you could also adapt this program to provide information about learning how to train or certify service or companion animals.

### ADAPTATION:

For those with allergies, show videos about service dogs instead. See Resources for a starting point.

### TIP:

For YA/adult books on careers working with animals, see Chapter 03: Teen Volunteer Fair.

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## Career Dogs Fiction

### Middle Grade

*Chester and Gus* (2017) by Cammie McGovern

*A Dog Like Daisy* (2017) by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb

### Young Adult

*Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam* (2007) by Cynthia Kadohata (F)

*Laika* (2014) by Nick Abadzis (F)

*The Last Dog on Earth* (2004) by Daniel Ehrenhaft (F)

*What the Dog Said* (2012) by Randi Reisfeld (F)

*Wilderness* (2017) by Roddy Doyle (F)

## Career Dogs Adult Nonfiction

*Animals Strike Curious Poses* by Elena Passarello (2018)

*A Dog Called Hope: A Wounded Warrior and the Service Dog Who Saved Him* (2017) by Jason Morgan and Damien Lewis

*The Dog Lover Unit: Lessons in Courage from the World's K9 Cops* (2017) by Rachel Rose

*A Dog's Gift: The Inspirational Story of Wounded Veterans and Children Healed by Man's Best Friend* (2015) by Bob Drury

*Dogs with Jobs: Inspirational Tales of the World's Hardest-Working Dogs* (2019) by Laura Greaves

*Extraordinary Dogs: Stories from Search and Rescue Dogs, Comfort Dogs, and Other Canine Heroes* (2019) by Liz Stavrindes and John Schlimm

*Hero Dogs: How a Pack of Rescues, Rejects, and Strays Became America's Greatest Disaster-Search Partners* (2019) by Wilma Melville and Paul Lobo

*The New Work of Dogs: Tending to Life, Love, and Family* (2003) by Jon Katz

*No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in WWII* (2016) by Robert Weintraub

*Ready! Training the Search and Rescue Dog* (2014) by Susan Bulanda

*Scent of the Missing: Love and Partnership with a Search-and-Rescue Dog* (2010) by Susannah Charleson

*Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero* (2011) by Michael Hingson

*Tuesday's Promise: One Veteran, One Dog, and Their Bold Quest To Change Lives* (2017) by Luis Carlos Montavlán and Ellis Henican

*What the Dog Knows: The Science and Wonder of Working Dogs* (2013) by Cat Warren

### TIP:

For more children's books on career dogs, see Chapter 06: Animal Heroes.