



## INFORMATIONAL PACKET FOR THE 2022 PS DP CONVENTION

The annual Psychiatric Service Dog Partners Convention is an event where people with mental health disabilities can learn more about working with their service dogs, have public access training and testing, and celebrate the freedom of going out and having fun with other service dog teams.

For sponsorship opportunities, see <https://www.psychdogpartners.org/sponsorship> for more information. Scholarships may be available for future conventions. See <https://www.psychdogpartners.org/scholarship> for more information.

### Location & date

Good times and good friends await you in **Long Beach, California!** Our main convention activities will take place in the 1440-square-foot Hanger/Jet room of the *Courtyard by Marriott (Long Beach Airport)* at 3841 N. Lakewood Boulevard in Long Beach (not the *Long Beach Downtown* location).

Activities are planned starting on Friday night, **April 29th**, through Monday, **May 2nd**. Many people are arriving on or before April 28th and leaving on May 3rd or 4th, so there may be additional chances to get together with other PS DP community members around the time of the convention. Monday this year will be an excursion to the Shoreline area, so we have more of the much-desired time to socialize out in the world.

The hotel is within a very close walking distance of a variety of eateries and a shopping center called the Long Beach Exchange. The Long Beach Exchange has many more tantalizing restaurants and practical delights, including PetSmart and Whole Foods. You are responsible for your own food, but many choose to go in groups to restaurants.

### Travel & lodging

Our convention location—Courtyard by Marriott (Long Beach Airport)—is a 5-minute drive from the Long Beach Airport (LGB); the hotel offers a shuttle to/from LGB. Public transit is an option, depending on the time of day. The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is also an option for more direct-flight options and the John Wayne Airport (JWA) is close as well. These two airports are 30–45-minute drives away, depending on traffic.

In January of 2022, the cost of a rideshare ride (like Uber or Lyft)\* from LGB to the hotel is around \$8 (no tips in our numbers). From LAX to the hotel is \$30. Taxis from LGB to the hotel are about \$25 and from LAX to the hotel about \$60. Download a rideshare service's app and sign up if you want to use it.

Many restaurants, a Petsmart, and a Whole Foods are walkable from the hotel for most folks. Convention-goers staying on site usually don't find it necessary to have a car during the convention. However, you will need to transport yourself to the Shoreline

area on Monday. A taxi from the hotel to the Shoreline area is about \$30, Uber is \$17, and public transit is available (but it may take around an hour).

Our group rate at the hotel is \$149/night (excluding taxes), which does NOT include breakfast. More information is available on the registration page:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2022-convention/2022-registration>

\*PSDP is not endorsing or recommending Uber or any ride service.

### Upon arrival

The stress of travel is not only felt by you, but also your dog. We highly recommend that when you arrive, before joining in with whatever the group is doing, you take a minute and relax with your dog. You have no obligation to check in with any social groups you may see on your way in, and everyone understands if you don't. Water yourself and your dog, maybe take a quiet walk together, or enjoy a power nap. Make sure that you and your dog are relaxed. This will help you and your dog have a better time, and will make it easier for your dog to focus on you instead of on the many other service dog teams there!

We will have rapid COVID tests at the convention Friday night; **everyone must complete one of our tests with a negative result before participating in events.** Find Veronica or Allison as soon as you can on Friday to get yours out of the way!  
Veronica: (803) 504-5126 Allison: (562) 506-6714

At the welcome meeting and throughout the convention, take advantage of the unique opportunities available. You will be surrounded by helpful, friendly, and experienced people who also want a great convention experience. Make friends and get contact info to continue to benefit from your shared adventures! Try to squeeze in working together on training during convention downtime. Sometimes training takes two people; consider training such things as alerting to the presence or approach of others, responding to being "down and out", etc.

### Schedule

*Please note that the schedule and activities are subject to change without notice.*

The default location for activities on this schedule is the Hanger/Jet room of the Courtyard by Marriott (Long Beach Airport) in Long Beach, CA, on the evening of April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Monday's (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) excursion will be in the Shoreline area of Long Beach.

Convention-goers must sign in upon arrival at the convention meeting room—at the latest during the mandatory welcome meeting—after completing a negative COVID test. In case you want to print just the schedule (rather than have it on your mobile device), it is on the next full page so you do not have to print the entire info packet.

## 2022 Schedule

### Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Anytime before 7:00 p.m., feel free to hang out/meet and greet in the lobby or outside

7:30 p.m. Sign-in and welcome meeting (mandatory), convention meet & greet

### Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00–10:00 Social breakfast outside (optional)

10:00–12:30 SDIT Manners Evaluation & Public Access Test (mandatory PAT lunch at the end, cost not included in PAT fee) (optional)

10:45–11:30 Finding training opportunities (for non-testers)

noon–1:30 Lunch on your own (non-testing can join testing teams; schedule is approximate)

1:20 *Committee meeting (closed meeting)*

1:30–3:00 Handling self-doubt and other challenges of being a service dog user

3:00–3:45 Break

3:45–5:00 Bringing joy to you and your dog while working

5:00–7:00 Dinner on your own

7:00–8:00 Social hour (informal)

### Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00–10:30 Social breakfast

10:30–noon *The Exchange* group outing

noon–1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30–3:00 Meeting both our needs: the handler/SD relationship

3:00–3:45 Break

3:45–5:00 Sharing your tips and techniques for service dog teams

5:00–7:00 Dinner on your own

7:00–8:00 Decompression and closing thoughts, room cleanup

### Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00–10:30 Social breakfast

10:30–on Tourism day: Shoreline area

## Activities

### **Sign-in (mandatory), welcome, and meet & greet**

Check in, socialize with other teams, hear convention policies, and be welcomed by Dr. Veronica Morris. The welcome on Friday night starts at 7:30 PM. Say hi to old friends, meet new ones, and share in the excitement of the convention! Sign-in will be available and is required to use the room (as is a COVID test). If you cannot make this event and sign in on Friday, get in touch with Veronica or Allison for your COVID test and then Linden to sign in before using the meeting space.

### **SDIT Manners Evaluation & Public Access Test (PAT)**

On Saturday morning, Allison and Veronica facilitate PSDP's Service Dog in Training (SDIT) Manners Evaluation and Public Access Test (PAT). The fee is \$20 per test; it's a good idea to bring cash. For each test, there is a maximum of six teams, where a team is one dog and one person. If you are especially interested in taking a test, get in touch with Allison ahead of time so she knows to expect you to sign up.

### **Social breakfast and Saturday's lunch**

This is an informal time to hang out and eat. Generally, we encourage you to bring your filled breakfast plate and utensils back to an area outside the meeting room for a safer group experience. On Saturday, eating lunch together at The Exchange is part of the public access test (PAT), but you don't have to be taking the PAT to eat with others.

### **Finding training opportunities (for non-testers)**

If you aren't out taking a test, join Linden in a circle discussion about finding opportunities to train your service dog. Whether it's during the convention or when you go home, you just can't beat brainstorming solutions with others in person!

### **Handling self-doubt and other challenges of being a service dog user**

From "imposter syndrome" to unexpected training hurdles, Veronica will facilitate an exploration of our unique challenges and how to deal with them. Bring your questions and share your tips. We all benefit from developing our group wisdom!

### **Bringing joy to you and your dog while working**

Your dog does not have to be a robot, professionalism is not the most important value, and happiness is not a bad thing for you or your dog! Deanna and Linden will facilitate this circle discussion about cultivating joy for you and your dog as you navigate life and your working relationship.

### **Social hour**

Saturday night is a time to relax and have fun with other PSDP convention-goers. Arguably the best kind of activity at the convention, there will be ample opportunities to have nice chats with your peers.

### **Videos and pictures for the PSDP community (throughout)**

Throughout the convention, PSDP volunteers will take pictures and occasionally record

video to help the cause. (Let us know clearly if you'd prefer we don't identify you by name.) Wear PSDP green if you have it!

### ***The Exchange* group outing (shopping area)**

We want all convention-goers to experience the incomparable feeling of being in public with a large group of service dog teams. "The Exchange" is a nearby shopping center where you're free to go off in your own small group or stick with the big pack. This invaluable experience is an opportunity to train around unexpected stimuli, or just to hang out and bond with community members.

### **Meeting both our needs: the handler/SD relationship**

You and your dog both have needs. How do you balance them when they compete? How do you decide when to meet a need, rather than following social norms of non-disabled people? This circle discussion will help us figure out when and how to put ourselves and our dogs first.

### **Sharing your tips and techniques for service dog teams**

What do you wish you had known when you started out on your service dog journey? No matter your level, bring your wisdom, experience, and questions to this circle discussion.

### **Decompression and closing thoughts**

Share what this convention has meant to you, what you've learned, and what you'd like to see next time. You'll also hear what to expect after the convention. Many attendees find this session essential to preparing your brain for re-entry into the world outside of our community cushion of understanding.

### **Tourism day: Shoreline area**

At 10:30 Monday morning, we'll leave the hotel (via your own transportation) and head for the Pelican Pier Pavillion (411 Shoreline Village Drive) at Shoreline Village to begin our outing as tourists for the day! Attractions in the area include an arcade and carousel, brightly adorned shops, an excellent aquarium, a wrap-around Shoreline Aquatic Park (land-based!), a Japanese-style Rainbow Lagoon Park (with swan boats), harbor tours by boat, and treasures in outdoor dining.

## Policies & procedures

Bring your least-scented products to this low-fragrance event; some are allergic.

This is a completely nut-free event in indoor PSDP spaces. Do not bring any human or dog products containing nuts.

No weapons or illegal drugs will be permitted at this event (pocket knives are OK, as are any medications for which you have a prescription).

The consumption of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited in PSDP spaces.

Convention-goers are welcome to do as they want outside of our convention activities.

Disruptive/inappropriate behavior may result in being required to leave PSDP spaces for a length of time proportional to the situation, in PSDP representatives' sole determination.

### **Food**

We will have optional times to gather and eat meals together, but you must provide/buy your own food. You can bring food from home if you prefer.\*

There are many restaurants and a grocery store within walking distance. We suggest you use Google Maps to explore these options. On regular overhead view (non-satellite), zoom in close enough and the names of the restaurants appear on the map.

\*As a reminder, this is a nut-free event. Do not bring any human or dog products containing nuts. Also, alcohol consumption is prohibited in PSDP spaces.

### **Dog behavior policy**

This is a convention for handlers with service dogs and service dogs in training. As such, we expect that all dogs in attendance will be friendly with other dogs and people. Dogs displaying aggressive behavior will be asked to leave. If you prefer your dog be given extra space, we encourage you to signal this to others by tying yellow ribbon (available at the convention) to your dog's leash or collar.

When deciding whether this convention is appropriate for you and your dog to attend, look over the minimum requirements of PSDP's Service Dog in Training (SDIT) Manners Evaluation (<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/public-access/manners-evaluation>). Teams should have a reasonable expectation, based on previous training, of being able to pass the SDIT Manners Evaluation. If you do not reasonably expect to be able to pass the SDIT Manners Evaluation with your dog at the time of the convention, or your dog has been known to be uncomfortable around other dogs or people, this convention may not be appropriate for your dog.

Before embarking on this trip, it would be wise to ensure that your dog is comfortable in the following situations: traveling on public transit, walking in a mall or crowded store, visiting restaurants, being in close quarters with other dogs and people, etc. If you have two service dogs, or a service dog and an SDIT, be aware that you will not be allowed to leave any dog tethered or unattended, even in your hotel room. You must be able to handle both dogs safely yourself, or bring a human helper who can handle one of the dogs for you at the event.



When you are around other service dogs, keep your dog within 2 feet of you, and keep at least 2 feet between dogs at all times unless people say it is OK. Be sure to ask first before you or your dog greets another team. It is the job of the handler to ensure their dog is not invading another dog's space. This is an on-leash convention, and dogs should never be left unattended at the activities.

All dogs must be kept leashed to a collar, vest, or harness at all times, and the leash must always be held by a person. There are no exceptions, apart from disability-required situations that are approved in writing by Veronica Morris at the time of registration. This includes when your dog is relieving itself, unless in a gated/fenced area designed for this purpose (and then only if others present explicitly agree). This rule includes \*all\* PSDP activities. If you use a shoulder leash and it is not long enough for your dog to lie on the floor next to you while it is around your shoulder, please remove the leash from your shoulder and maintain a secure hold on it so your dog is never untethered from you.

Please be prepared to clean up after your dog. Bring appropriate bags and products to ensure that we leave the facility in the same condition that we found it or better. We are representing PSDP and all other service dogs by our behavior in public at this event, so it is important that we all obey these behavior standards. There will be a trainer on site to talk with if you are having any issues upholding these standards.

If you witness a dog grossly misbehaving (e.g. biting or fighting with another dog, repeatedly eliminating inappropriately, etc.), please report it to at least one of the people in charge as soon as possible. In circles, if your dog is disruptive or destructive for any reason, we expect you to remove your dog and resolve the situation before returning.

### **Elimination policy**

For sanitation reasons, we ask you to prevent your dog from eliminating on any building, vehicle, or structure. All solid waste must be picked up immediately. If a dog has elimination problems in indoor spaces, it will be asked to leave.

In addition, we ask participants to be conscientious in adhering to our P.U.P. policy—“Pick Up Poop”. If you see any dog waste in addition to your own dog's and you are able to pick it up, please do so! Our efforts to leave the area better than we found it are a great way to spread good will around our convention and toward our community.

### **Extra assistance recommendation**

Some people need extra assistance from a person, beyond what our participant-volunteers can provide. If this might apply to you, we strongly recommend you bring/register a friend or family member who can help take care of your needs. Our participant-volunteers are not there as trained professionals, therapists, or veterinarians/behaviorists, but as fellow peers who just want everyone to have a good experience.

### **Minor policy**

This is not a family vacation type of event. The convention is for handlers of psychiatric service dogs (PSDs) and psychiatric service dogs in training (PSDITs), and the activities will be geared towards these individuals. Children with PSDs or PSDITs are welcome to attend with a guardian, but please keep in mind the convention is a chance for people to speak freely about their mental illnesses and this may include discussions of self-injury, abuse, nightmares, and flashbacks. It is up to each parent to ensure their child is either

OK with these discussions, or to remove the child from these discussions. If you have any questions, please email us at [info@psych.dog](mailto:info@psych.dog).

### **Sales policy**

PSDP may authorize products or services to be offered at the convention, such as team testing.

People sometimes bring gear to swap or sell on their own at the convention. Any offers by convention-goers of products or services for sale cannot be conducted in PSDP spaces during organized activities. Consistent with [List Rules 8 & 9](#), personal requests on the listserv for information to facilitate sales are prohibited.

Anyone selling items is personally responsible for security, financial transactions, and customer satisfaction. PSDP is not responsible for anything involving sales to which PSDP is not directly a party.

### **Public health measures**

We will continue to monitor and follow CDC guidance and local requirements. Respect one another. Masks are required indoors. Negative rapid COVID test required Friday at the convention (provided). Full COVID vaccination is required (in LA this means two weeks after at least: 2 Pfizer, 2 Moderna, or 1 J&J). We plan to ventilate the room. Anyone who is feeling unwell should expect to isolate/visit urgent care.

### **Emergencies**

Service dog medical—(1) Emergency: [VCA Lakewood Animal Hospital](#) at 10701 South St. in Cerritos, CA, (562) 926-3600. (2) Urgent care: [Primary Care Animal Hospital](#) at 2200 N Lakewood Blvd in Long Beach, CA, (562) 274-7776 (may offer 10% SD discount).

Human medical—(1) Emergency: [MemorialCare Medical Center](#) at 2801 Atlantic Ave in Long Beach, CA, (562) 933-2000 or 911. (2) Mental health crisis: [Crisis Text Line](#), text 741741; [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#), call (800) 273-8255. (3) Urgent care: [MemorialCare Medical Group](#) at 2110 N Bellflower Blvd in Long Beach, CA, (877) 696-3622.

### **Weather**

History-based predictions for Long Beach put the temperature range at 55°–73° F. The chance of precipitation each day is around 5%. Check the forecast and bring layers.

### **Packing list**

This list is only a suggestion of items you may want to bring. Wear clothes suitable for outings. The packing list is on a single page below in case you want to print it without printing the whole info packet (and you don't just want it on your mobile device).



## Packing list

- Clothing, including layers, long pants, shorts, t-shirts, and long-sleeved shirts (PSDP green/logowear is encouraged!)
- Extra underwear and socks
- Pajamas
- Sweatshirt or jacket
- Hat for warmth
- Sunglasses/hat/ballcap to protect from sun
- Comfortable shoes to walk or hike in
- Soap and shampoo (unscented, please!)
- Deodorant—unscented
- Sunscreen—unscented
- Toothbrush and toothpaste (human & dog!)
- Brush or comb (human & dog)
- Camera & film/storage, charged batteries
- Airline SD paperwork
- Vaccination record (human & dog)
- Masks
- Medications, including prescriptions, over-the-counter pain meds, and motion-sickness meds
- Games/cards
- Water bottle
- Emergency contact & medical info for you and your dog
- Dog dishes
- Dog food
- Dog medication
- Towel for your dog
- Poop bags
- Service vest if you use one
- Collar and leash
- Dog treats
- Charging cords: camera, phone, etc.
- Dog toys
- Portable dog watering bowl
- Bag for dirty items
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## ACCIDENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN ANY/ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS EVENT, including by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by them, or because of their possible liability without fault.

I certify that I am sufficiently fit, have sufficiently prepared or trained for participation in this activity if appropriate, and have not been advised to not participate by a qualified medical professional. I certify that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in this activity.

I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the activity in which I may participate, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said activity. In consideration of my application and permitting me to participate in this activity, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:

(A) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including my traveling to and from this activity, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: Psychiatric Service Dog Partners (PSDP) and/or their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, and the activity holders, sponsors, and volunteers;

(B) INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity, whether caused by the negligence of release or otherwise.

I acknowledge that PSDP and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives, and agents are NOT responsible for the errors, omissions, acts, or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific activity on their behalf.

I acknowledge that this activity may involve a test of a person's physical or mental limits and carries with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic, lack of hydration, and actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, monitors, and/or producers of the activity. These risks are not only inherent to participants, but are also present for volunteers.

I hereby consent to receive medical treatment which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity, in cases where I am unable to give/deny consent at the time.

I understand while participating in this activity, I may be photographed. Unless I make it clear otherwise to anyone engaged in the recording of my likeness, I agree to allow my photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by the activity holders, producers, sponsors, organizers, and assigns.

The Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT.

I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature (Please print legibly.)      Date      Participant's Name      Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature      Date  
(If under 18 years old, Parent or Guardian must also sign.)