



Potential Tax Deductions for Volunteers

*This is a simple guide to possible tax deductions for Guiding Eyes Volunteers.
For further clarification, please consult your tax professional.*

Guiding Eyes Volunteers *may* be eligible to claim the following as deductions on their income tax:

Mileage

You may deduct the cost of travelling to and from Guiding Eyes for the Blind's facilities, class locations or events by opting to itemize on your taxes. The IRS optional standard mileage rate is 14 cents per mile, which can really add up! You will need to document the dates you volunteered and the mileage to and from Guiding Eyes.

***Tip:** We suggest a calendar system to track the dates you volunteered and the mileage. Using a pocket calendar, write down the dates that you came to Guiding Eyes to volunteer. Record the mileage here too. At tax time you should have all you need to verify your mileage deductions!*

Tolls, Parking etc

The cost of tolls, parking, cab or bus fares may also be deductible, providing they were directly related to you volunteering with Guiding Eyes. You will need to save the receipts to verify these deductions.

***Tip:** Keep a separate folder for Guiding Eyes' related receipts. When you get a receipt, write on the back what it was for (e.g. Toll for bridge) and make sure it is dated. Then file it in your Guiding Eyes folder -this makes gathering receipts much easier at tax time.*

Dog Food, Toys etc

If you are raising a Guiding Eyes Puppy on our Puppy Raising Program or if you are providing a home for one of our Active breeding dogs, you may be able to deduct the costs associated with housing these dogs including the cost of dog food, grooming supplies and other necessary equipment. However, according to the IRS the costs must be:

- Unreimbursed
- Directly connected with the services rendered
- Expenses you incurred ONLY because of the services you provided
- Not personal, living or family expenses

***Tip:** Keep the receipts for food and other necessary equipment that you purchase in a Guiding Eyes receipts folder to make tax time easier. Don't forget the receipt should include a date and description of the items purchased.*

Donated Goods

The value of any material goods that you have donated to Guiding Eyes (toys, crates, collars, leashes etc) may be tax deductible if you have documentation.

For New Items

Keep the receipts and you should be able to deduct the total amount of your donations.

For Used Items

Guiding Eyes will provide a receipt for goods, but it is up to the individual to value used goods. The rule of thumb here is, estimate what you would expect to pay in a thrift store.

What Cannot Be Deducted:

The value of income lost while volunteering.

The value of a volunteer's time or services.

Clothing (other than uniforms).

Equipment not provided by, or donated to, the organization.

More Questions? Check with your Tax Professional for further information.

*This document has been provided to Guiding Eyes Volunteers as a guide only.
It is not intended as a substitute for the advice of a qualified tax professional.*