

Service Animal Policy

Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center



Saint Mary's College [Service and Emotional Support Animal Policy](#)

All service animals are welcome into the recreation center under the following circumstances:

- The handler must have complete control of the service animal at all times while in the facility.
- The handler is responsible for the service animal at all times; including any accidents, spills, or clean-ups needed.
- The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents the use of these devices.
- Service animals are not permitted to be in the pool, however they are welcome to be on the pool deck.
- All service animals are required to follow the Joseph L Alioto Recreation Center policies while in the facility as the service animal is an extension of the member.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How is "service animal" defined?

Service animals are defined as dogs of any breed or size trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability.

2. What can a staff member ask in regards to the service animal?

You may **ONLY** ask the following two questions when approaching a member with a service animal:

- Is the service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Staff may **NOT ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform work or task.*

3. Do service animals have to wear a vest or patch to identify them as a service animal?

No, they do not.

4. Are emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals considered service animals under the ADA?

No, emotional support animals are not considered service animals and are not allowed in the facility.

5. Can service animals be any breed of dog?

Yes, the ADA does not restrict the type of dog breeds that can be service animals.