



2023 Sponsorship Request

The Para Guide Foundation

The Para Guide Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, was founded in Charlotte, NC in 2017 with the purpose of supporting adaptive athletes in the pursuit of accessibility, inclusion and equity. The services provided by Para Guide include training sighted guides for blind and visually impaired individuals who want to walk, run, cycle, and swim or participate in group exercise events. As transportation is one of the largest challenges for visually impaired individuals, Para Guide provides transportation to and from events for our athletes. Para Guide also provides coaching and training plans for adaptive individuals who are preparing for athletic events and for general fitness. Para Guide raises funds from local supporters and events to provide scholarships for adaptive individuals who need assistance with race and event entries, equipment, travel and maintenance for their gear. Para Guide also provides the "Sight-By-Side" guide training program for volunteers who want to become sighted guides for swimming, cycling, running, walking and group exercise events.

2022 Accomplishments

In 2022 Para Guide served over 140 blind/visually impaired individuals in the greater Charlotte area and across the USA and beyond. We believe that accessibility and access to movement is critical. We have provided at-home fitness equipment (stationary bicycles, treadmills, weights, etc.) for 50 individuals since early 2020, as access to fitness at home has become even more critical for the population that we serve. Para Guide also has two USA Triathlon Certified coaches who provide basic and advanced training plans at no charge for 15 adaptive athletes of all skill levels.

2023 Goals & Objectives

Para Guide will grant treadmills, stationary bicycles, weights, and additional at-home fitness solutions for an additional 20 individuals in 2023. It is our goal to continue providing solutions for adaptive athletes/individuals, as access to mobility, health and wellness is paramount during the pandemic and thereafter. We believe that health and fitness are critical for all people. As always, our goal is to pursue accessibility, inclusion and equity for all.

Para Guide provides support for walking/running, cycling, and swimming for adaptive athletes (ALL 3 disciplines of triathlon), and we have had great success with our partnerships with the ND DHHS Division of Services for the Blind, Metrolina Association for the Blind and the Charlotte VA. From these groups, we receive referrals of new adaptive individuals who need our services weekly. We serve people of all genders, races, ages, ethnic background, and socio-economic background. We serve children as young as five years old and up to 80+ years old. We serve blind and visually impaired individuals, DeafBlind individuals, and mobility impaired individuals (all "Athletes with Disabilities"), in all 3 disciplines (walking/running, cycling and swimming).

Para Guide Partnership Opportunities for 2023

Para Guide will host two in-person inclusive athletic clinic events in 2023. The first event will be “S.E.E. Field Day” (May 2023; focused on serving blind/visually impaired children under the age of 18) in tethered running and tandem cycling, and the second event will be “Blind Sports Day” (October 2023; focused on serving both adults and children under the age of 18) in tethered running and tandem cycling. These events will take place in Charlotte, NC.

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: Gold - \$1,000

- Includes
 - Highlighted sponsor – via Para Guide social media channels and website
 - Sponsor logo on event marketing collateral
 - Tent space/booth space at the events

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: Silver - \$750

- Includes
 - Highlighted sponsor – via Para Guide social media channels and website
 - Sponsor logo on event marketing collateral

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: Bronze - \$500

- Includes
 - Sponsor logo on event marketing collateral

Please contact Shannon Houlihan – shannon@paraguide.org