

WhirliDogs Training Center & Café



WhirliDogs Café Mission Statement:

“To enhance the Power of Possibility by creating a safe and inclusive environment, where all customers are welcomed and all staff are valued for their unique strengths and potential for growth.”

WhirliDogs Café Objectives:

- To foster a sense of worth, connection and belonging for the teammates through training, employment and recognition systems.
- To demonstrate firsthand to the general public the loyal and hardworking nature of persons with disabilities and the benefits of employing these individuals within their businesses.
- To decrease the unemployment rates of persons living with disabilities while filling the void of available trained and experienced hospitality workers to Wilson and surrounding areas.
- To provide hope to families by demonstrating there is a place of belonging in the local workforce for their family members with disabilities.

The WhirliDogs Story

The employment rate for adults with disabilities stands at 30%, in stark contrast to 76% for adults without disabilities. Students with disabilities often graduate from high school with little to no work experience. Without any work experience these graduates often go from the classroom to their parents’ couches. Parents have reported that they are unable to find organizations or businesses even willing to let their children volunteer to gain experience, even when accompanied by a 1-on-1 coach.

To meet these needs, a community grassroots effort began in 2017 with a mission “To establish a downtown business or businesses that would support the training and subsequent employment of differently abled adults, being inclusive of all levels of ability.” After consulting area businesses and workforce experts the group decided to pursue a nonprofit status and work towards the goal of opening a café in Historic Downtown Wilson. The café had two major objectives; to provide that essential first work experience for persons with disabilities who wished to have a job, and to demonstrate to the public firsthand the loyal and hardworking nature of workers with disabilities. Market research showed that the town needed a fast casual restaurant near their landmark Whirligig Park. Spurred by suggestions of area eateries the group decided on a café specializing in “Out-of-the-Box” hotdogs and ice cream creations. The café would be named WhirliDogs as a nod to the park.

WhirliDogs began offering ServSafe Food Handler and WhirliDog Prep Cooking classes while raising the funds to begin construction. Adding cooking experience to the ServSafe Food Handler certification class increased the rate of teammates who passed the test, but being certified did not ensure employment. Few graduates acquired jobs in the food service industry due to a lack of experience and employer hesitancy. Our café will offer teammates opportunities to get that first essential paid work experience. Our vision is that teammates will then transition to competitive integrated employment within businesses in their home community.

WhirliDogs Loves Their Volunteers

Community and business volunteers have been an asset to the WhirliDogs’ staff during early years of development. Volunteers have helped with fundraising efforts such as tee shirt sales, pop-up food events, auctions and hosting “A Party with a Purpose”. Volunteers have also assisted with WhirliDogs ServSafe and WhirliDogs Prep Academies as well as Job Camps. It is safe to say WhirliDogs would not have become such a successful community cause without the support of volunteers.

Opportunities to Volunteer

1. Café Job Coach

The Café job coach will have the responsibility of coaching teammates working in the Café. Job coaches shadow teammates to ensure the tasks are being performed correctly and that this employee is working towards skill mastery. The goal is to support employees while they are at work, not to do the job for them. There are many different roles at the café that require coaching in order to ensure the process of providing food is safe, sanitary and efficient. Different jobs at the café include servers, cashier, hot dog architects, bussers, cooks, drink and ice cream attendants, dish washer, host, consignment and merchandise inventory control.

2. Outreach Job Coach

As teammates reach their internship goals and move into employment positions within our community, Job Coaches will be needed to help transition our graduates to their new jobs. This might necessitate accompanying the teammate on an interview, guiding them through the orientation process and assisting in the initial training of the employees. It is the hope that the Job Coach selected for this task will know the teammate and be able to assist with learning the new job and be a resource to the new employers. Remember Job Coaches shadow our teammates, to ensure the task is being performed correctly and that this employee is working towards skill mastery and personal advancement. The goal is to support our employees in their new environment, not to do the job for them.

3. WhirliDogs Prep and ServSafe Academy Assistants and Instructors

During non-operational hours WhirliDogs will offer WhirliDog Prep and ServSafe classes. The Prep classes cover basic cooking, cleaning and teamwork skills. The ServSafe classes cover the curriculum for the Food Handler Certification. These classes are the first step teammates must take to be considered for employment. Volunteers assist the students as needed to participate fully in the classes. Guest chefs are also desired to teach in the prep classes.

4. Event Volunteer

Periodically WhirliDogs will participate in various community events. Volunteers are needed to both market and work at the events, sometimes assisting teammates. Volunteers should be knowledgeable about the mission of WhirliDogs in order to become an ambassador. Computer skills and some heavy lifting may be required depending on the event.

Guidelines for Volunteering at WhirliDogs

- Please note that anyone wishing to volunteer in the café must pass the [ServSafe Food Handler course](https://www.servsafe.com/access/ss/catalog/productdetail/ssect6) and attend an orientation. The course will be offered periodically in house as well as online at <https://www.servsafe.com/access/ss/catalog/productdetail/ssect6> SERVS SAFE FOOD HANDLER ONLINE COURSE AND ASSESSMENT BUNDLE. This course is currently \$15 and takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete. Volunteers interested in assisting in the WhirliDogs ServSafe Academy may earn their certification at the end of the Academy by passing the test presented by the instructor free of charge. If taken online a copy of the certificate is required.
- In the café, WhirliDogs Volunteers should wear a WhirliDogs T shirt, head coverings and closed-toe comfortable shoes.
- Volunteers will need to complete the attached application and give permission for a criminal background check.
- Volunteers will enter into a six-week probation period from their first day.
- Volunteers will be required to sign in and out on the volunteer log briefly noting their tasks for the day.



WhirliDogs Training Center & Café

Volunteer Application and Agreement

"To enhance the Power of Possibility by creating a safe and inclusive environment, where all customers are welcomed and all staff are valued for their unique strengths and potential for growth."

~~~~~

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for WhirliDogs. Please complete this application for consideration. We will contact you soon to schedule an interview. The information on this application will be kept confidential. **All WhirliDogs' volunteers will be required to have a criminal background check and to attend an orientation.**

**Please Print Legibly:**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle/Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current employment \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

List any skills/talents/interests you could bring to WhirliDogs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any certifications such as CPR or First Aid you hold. \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and times you are available to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any experience working with individuals with disabilities? Check one: YES NO  
If YES, in what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

List any previous volunteer experience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to obtain the ServSafe Food Handler Certificate. Check one: Online In person/class at the café

### REFERENCES

List two adults, not related to you, who have knowledge of your qualifications.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# WhirliDogs Training Center, Inc. Volunteer Agreement

As a volunteer of WhirliDogs I agree to act as a representative of the organization.

In doing so, I understand that I am a reflection of the WhirliDogs Café's mission statement "To enhance the Power of Possibility by creating a safe and inclusive environment, where all customers are welcomed and all staff are valued for their unique strengths and potential for growth."

I agree to conduct myself in ways that support the following WhirliDogs Café Objectives:

- To foster a sense of worth, connection and belonging for the teammates through training, employment and recognition systems.
- To demonstrate firsthand to the general public the loyal and hardworking nature of persons with disabilities and the benefits of employing these individuals within their businesses.
- To decrease the unemployment rates of persons living with disabilities while filling the void of available trained and experienced hospitality workers to Wilson and surrounding areas.
- To provide hope to families by demonstrating there is a place of belonging in the local workforce for their family members with disabilities.

I will adhere to the safety and sanitation guidelines outlined in my completed ServSafe Food Handler training as well as protocols set by the management of WhirliDogs Café and Training Center found in the volunteer handbook.

I understand that I will be volunteering at my own risk and that WhirliDogs Training Center, Inc., its board of directors, or its employees will not assume any liability for any accident, injury, or health problem which may arise from any volunteer work I perform. I agree that all of the work I do is on a volunteer basis and that I am not eligible to receive any compensation.

I understand that each employee and/or volunteer must consent to a criminal background check and hereby authorize WhirliDogs to work with public law enforcement agencies or private organizations to have this criminal background check conducted.

Signature of Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*WhirliDogs does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.*



# Emergency Medical Authorization Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
month day year

I hereby authorize / do not authorize WhirliDogs Training Center, Inc. to administer minor/emergency treatment of the person named above, should the need arise. If an accident occurs during a shift, every possible effort will be made to contact the emergency medical person listed below regarding such incident. I give permission to those administering emergency treatment to do so using measures deemed necessary. I absolve WhirliDogs Training Center, Inc. from liability in acting on behalf of the person listed above. In the event of a major emergency, the emergency contact will be called along with 911 and taken to the closest hospital.

Please list any medications the above-named employee/volunteer may be taking so emergency personnel can be informed.

Please list any medications the above-named employee/volunteer may be allergic to so emergency personnel can be informed.

Please list two emergency contacts with phone numbers.

|    |       |              |              |
|----|-------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | _____ | _____        | _____        |
|    | Name  | Phone Number | Relationship |
| 2. | _____ | _____        | _____        |
|    | Name  | Phone Number | Relationship |

Responsible Party: Guardian or Self Check one

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date