

NO BOUNDARIES

TRAIN FOR WORK, TRAIN FOR LIFE

Experiential on-land and on-line training for transitioning teens through adults with disabilities to build essential skills for the workplace and for living more independently in today's world.

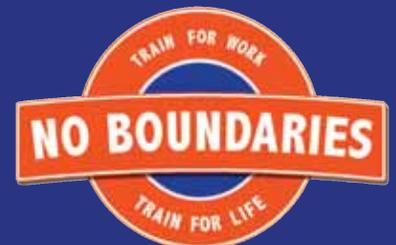
NO BOUNDARIES combines:

- Structured classroom instruction
- Experiential and community-based learning
- An integrated workplace and community setting
- Mentor support
- Internship and work opportunities



“No Boundaries ‘gets it.’ They recognize that goals and motivators are unique to each client. They strive to empower clients to confidently meet their goals via respectful, yet firm, guidance. They draw on many different resources and modalities to assist clients. Our 26-year-old daughter benefited greatly from her individualized classroom time, and is now happily employed where she continues to improve on her work and social skills.”

~ Janet C., Parent



NO BOUNDARIES is breaking down

THE MISSION

of NO BOUNDARIES is to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve meaningful integration into the workplace and community, through innovative on-land and on-line classroom and experiential learning.

CURRICULUM

At NO BOUNDARIES participants build skills through group-based classroom instruction and individualized, hands-on practical experience in the workplace and in the community. Our unique approach integrates on-land and on-line skills building with independent living skills, accessing community resources and achieving personal goals for the workplace and for community life in the 21st Century.

CLASSROOM & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Modules include these thematic areas:

- Self-organizing
- Communications
- Self-Advocacy
- Internet Safety
- On-the-Job/ In-the-Community

MENTORS

Academic interns from area universities, along with community members and volunteers from Chicagoland companies, serve as mentors to participants. Mentors reinforce all concepts and skills learned.

INTERNSHIPS

Qualifying NO BOUNDARIES participants access internship opportunities at one of several social enterprises, where they gain hands-on experience in supportive environments, including:

- jjslist.com - technology, communications and marketing
- Planet Access Store - retail
- Planet Access Warehouse – warehouse and order fulfillment
- Keystone Alliance - office administration
- Disability Awareness Players - training businesses in disability awareness
- Other community-based businesses.

DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

77%

OF NO BOUNDARIES PARTICIPANTS WHO WANT TO WORK FOUND COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT AT MINIMUM OR THE PREVAILING WAGE IN AREAS OF THEIR CHOICE.

80%

OF NO BOUNDARIES PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN EXPERIENTIAL WORKPLACE LEARNING, HELD INTERNSHIPS IN RETAIL, TECHNOLOGY AND OFFICE ASSISTANCE.

100%

OF PARTICIPANTS HAVE IMPROVED THEIR ON-LAND AND ON-LINE CAPACITY IN COMMUNICATIONS, SOCIAL THINKING, JUDGMENT, SELF-ORGANIZING, SELF-ADVOCACY AND MORE.

boundaries!



NO BOUNDARIES TENETS

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COMMUNICATION – Participants build employment and community networks using on-land and on-line communication tools.

INDEPENDENCE – Participants build skills in making decisions, self-directing, being productive, taking responsibility and getting support when needed.

JUDGMENT – Participants learn to assess situations or problems, and get support when needed to make good decisions.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Participants learn to respond to challenges, building self-accountability for decisions made and actions taken.

SELF-ADVOCACY – Participants build self-awareness and learn to speak out for wants and needs, demonstrate independence, self-confidence, and knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

SELF-ORGANIZING – Participants practice daily skills of planning for, and accomplishing, daily, weekly and monthly events, using calendars and record keeping.

SOCIAL THINKING – Participants engage in continuous practice of identifying and understanding the behaviors of others and of themselves, and use what they learn to conduct themselves maturely and successfully.

TECHNOLOGY – Participants build safe and productive Internet and computer skills for today's workplace, and for full community participation.

“ The No Boundaries program provides real-world job readiness skill instruction in a professional office atmosphere. The No Boundaries team holds a standard of professionalism that directly reflects the contemporary needs of different employment settings making all participants better prepared to take their next steps. It's a great opportunity! ”

~ Manager - Transition Services, ODLSS, Chicago Public Schools

FAQs

Is NO BOUNDARIES a good match for me?

No Boundaries is ideal for adults with disabilities and teens, 18 years or older, who are transitioning from high school. No Boundaries is designed for self-motivated individuals who want to strengthen their existing abilities, build new skills, continue learning and gain employment and life experiences in the community.

What is the teaching philosophy behind NO BOUNDARIES?

At No Boundaries we believe that for every on-land life skill there is usually an equally important, or a complementary on-line life skill that contributes to employment and to a productive and fulfilling life. Therefore, our instruction and experiential activities address both on-land and on-line learning needs in these areas: judgment, safety, independence, appropriate communication, social thinking and social interaction and self-organization skills.

Why does NO BOUNDARIES emphasize

on-line learning? The growing digital divide is making access to employment and community participation for adults with disabilities more challenging than ever. Without essential on-land and on-line communications and productivity skills, they are falling further behind their peers without disabilities. No Boundaries is at the forefront of addressing this dual need.

Will I get paid? No Boundaries is a private, tuition-based program. Participants are not paid for participating in No Boundaries learning or internship programs. Participants who progress successfully through the internship program are given priority for employment consideration at social enterprises and with community-based, local business partners.

What is the NO BOUNDARIES participant-to-instructor ratio?

There is a maximum 8-to-1 participant-to-instructor ratio. Adult mentors provide additional support for skills reinforcement.

Will I automatically get job placement

after NO BOUNDARIES? Job placement is not guaranteed. Staff and mentors will assist participants who work hard and demonstrate progress to find employment at one of our social enterprises or the businesses with whom we partner.

What will I learn upon completion of

NO BOUNDARIES? Participants can earn individual certificates for successfully learning and mastering skills. Each certificate communicates success in achieving learning goals. Certificates can be as specific as mastering a self-organizing skill to something broader, such as demonstrating teamwork or leadership. Certificates can be integrated into your resumes and portfolios to share with potential employers and with peers.

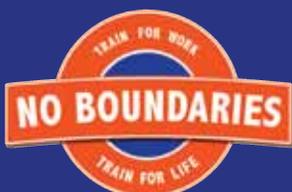
What distinguishes NO BOUNDARIES from other post-secondary programs? Well, we are not a new kid on the block! No Boundaries is the perfect pairing of two organizations with 50 plus years of combined experience in working with people who have disabilities and engaging with the business community. We use established curricula with demonstrated results, and we are located in the heart of a business district in a diverse and progressive community close to the CTA, Metra and Pace.

How long does NO BOUNDARIES last? Participants must commit to a minimum of one session, part-time. They can renew by session for as long as desired.

Does it matter what my disability is? We believe that by the time an individual reaches adulthood, the disability label becomes irrelevant. Instead, we ask, "What are the supports that the individual with the disability needs in order to have a productive and fulfilling day, week, month, year, life?" With supports identified and in place, learning and skills building become the focus.

What role does my family play in NO

BOUNDARIES? Experience tells us that the more involved your family is in your life, the greater your successes will be. We invite, and may request your permission, for regular communication with an assigned family member or adult supporter. Additionally, family and supporters will be invited to participate in helping the program in ways that fit their interests and availability.



NO BOUNDARIES is a program of Search, Inc.

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Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 – 4:00pm

search-inc.org/noboundaries • email: noboundaries@search-inc.org

Appointments by request. Please contact the No Boundaries office.

