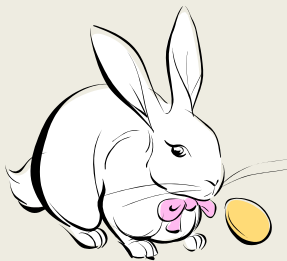


E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

Inside this issue:

- CHOOSING A SUMMER CAMP
- SPEAKING OF CAMPS...
- APRIL DEADLINES
- APRIL CALENDAR



Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to:
copobc.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



CHOOSING A SUMMER CAMP

Many families enjoy sending their older kids off to camp for a couple weeks in the summer. It's a break for mom and dad and a big adventure for the kids. But what happens when one of the kids in the family is blind or visually impaired? One option is a camp that holds sessions specifically for children with disabilities, but what about the "regular" camp that the kid next door is excited about? Can the blind child go there? What is the best choice?

Here are some simple tips for parents to consider as they investigate summer camps for their blind children. (From "Future Reflections", vol. 26, #2: Sports and Fitness Special Issue).

1. Do insist that your child use his or her cane to get to all

activities within the camp. Be skeptical, for example, of a camp that has special guide ropes strung up on the campgrounds to assist blind campers to certain areas. Consider this and other modifications and policies, and ask yourself, "Will this camp encourage and support my child's overall independence?"

2. Do prepare your child throughout the year to be age-appropriate in self-help skills such as bathing, washing hair, keeping track of his/her possessions, getting a soda out of a machine, etc. Be proactive. Don't let a lack of personal care skills be a barrier to some wonderful camp opportunities.

3. Do arrange to get camp materials--pamphlets, rules, policies, schedules, and so forth--in Braille or other accessible format so your child can read it her- or himself.

4. Don't assume that special camps for blind children are the best type of camp for your kid. Investigate. Talk to other parents of sighted and blind kids about their kids' camp experiences and consider what is best for your child.

5. Do let your child follow his or her interests when selecting a camp. If art is what your child enjoys, and an affordable art camp is available, by all means, go for it. Try to put your biases or doubts about how blindness might be a barrier aside. Camps are a great place to safely explore interests and develop dreams.

But... what happens if the camp you have chosen politely explains to you that they cannot accept your blind/visually impaired child "for his or her safety" or some other reason based on disability? Here is what Carol Castellano replied to a parent whose child was refused a place at the music camp they had chosen.

"Summer camps are places of public accommodation that fall under the ADA (except religious camps). They are not allowed to discriminate on the basis of disability. It is against the law.

A person who is "otherwise capable," meaning who meets the other qualifications of the camp, such as age or grade or musical interest, cannot be kept out solely on the basis of his or her disability.

Often when an entity such as a school or camp is discriminating, those in charge do not realize it. They might think that they are only being practical or ensuring safety.

But the law is crystal clear and

the camp administration needs to learn that. I have used the phrase, "I'm sure you don't mean to be out of compliance with federal law..." I sometimes mention that the family doesn't WANT to file a complaint with the Office on Civil Rights, but if they have to, they will...

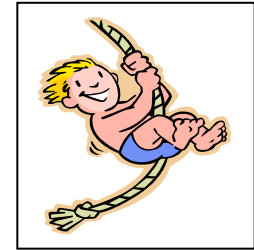
Ideally, when a disabled person seeks entrance to this kind of place of public accommodation, a conversation is supposed to take place in which the camp and the parent/disabled person discuss the accommodations or modifications that could be made.

There are 3 instances in which the disabled person may be rejected: 1) if acceptance would cause "undue hardship," defined as "significant difficulty or expense;" 2) pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others; or 3) alter the fundamental nature of the program."

For more information on accommodations guaranteed under the ADA, check out the following websites:
<http://www.ada.gov/t3highlight.htm> :

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/adaga/summer.asp>

<http://www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/ada-revisions>



SPEAKING OF CAMPS...

The NFB/CCB lineup of summer learning camps for school age kids is AWESOME!

BELL: A SUMMER BRAILLE CAMP FOR KIDS

BELL is a two-week Braille enrichment camp for kids ages 4-12. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities.

BELL CAMP COLORADO SPRINGS: July 14-25: On the CSDB Campus.

BELL CAMP METRO DENVER: July 21-August 1: Rocky Mountain MS Center, 8845 Wagner St., Westminster.

For more information contact Diane McGeorge, at 303-321-4268 or e-mail

rmcgeorge@comcast.net.

Ready to apply? Applications for BELL are available on the NFB website: nfb.org/bell-summer-program-form

Watch a short video of last summer's BELL camp by [clicking here](#).

**COLORADO CENTER FOR THE
BLIND SUMMER PROGRAMS --**

CONFIDENCE CAMP:

Elementary age. June 9-27:
Three weeks of fun activities
and outdoor experiences
designed to further the skills of
daily living. Watch a short
video about Confidence Camp
by [clicking here](#).

INITIATION TO INDEPENDENCE

CAMP: Middle School age. July
14-August 1: Three week
residential program that will
focus on Braille, cane travel,
technology, challenge
recreation and daily living skills.

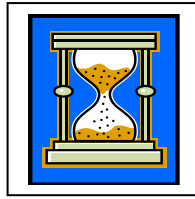
EARN AND LEARN: High School
age. June 6- August 1

SUMMER FOR SUCCESS:

College Prep. June 6-August 1

The high school and college
programs are 8 week
residential programs focusing
on Braille, cane travel,
technology, challenge
recreation and daily living skills.
High School students will have
a part time job experience.
College prep students will have
classes relating to success in
college. Students in both
programs will attend the
National Convention of the
National Federation of the
Blind in Orlando in July.

Contact Brent Batron 303-778-
1130 ext. 222 or
bbatron@cocenter.org for
more information.



APRIL DEADLINES

April 1: Deadline to RSVP for
Century Link Pioneers Easter
Egg Hunt. See Calendar below
for information.

April 3: Deadline to RSVP for
FAST Saturday. See Calendar
below for information.

April 15: Deadline for
submitting application for NFB
of Colorado scholarships. The
application form is available on
the [NFCO.org website](http://NFCO.org).

April 15: Deadline for applying
for a Jernigan Fund Convention
Scholarship. (Financial
assistance for first timers to
attend the NFB National
Convention in Orlando, Florida
July 1-6.) For more information
[click here](#).



APRIL CALENDAR

April 5: **FAST Saturday**
A CCB Youth Program

10 am–2 pm at the Colorado
Center for the Blind, 2233 W.
Shepperd Ave. Littleton, CO

Kids 5-18 and their families are
invited for a family centered
day focusing on Braille, cane

travel and a fun activity,
including lunch. Space is limited
so please RSVP by April 3 to
Brent Batron:
bbatron@cocenter.org or
303-778-1130 ext. 222. There
is NO COST for this event.

April 10-13: Connect 2014:

Colorado Association of Blind
Students Seminar

Presentations covering high
school transition, the college
experience, scholarships,
finding a job, technology and
much more.

Where: Colorado Center for
the Blind. Registration is \$50
and includes 2 lunches and one
dinner.

For more information contact
Antonio Rozier:
arozier@cocenter.org

April 12: Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the Century Link
Pioneers. A beeping Easter egg
hunt and free picnic lunch for
visually impaired children
under 18 years of age and their
families.

Where: 700 West Mineral Ave.,
Littleton, CO (south side of
building).

When: 10:30 a.m.

RSVP to Nancy Eckert 303-979-
5496; eckertn@msn.com by
April 1.
(This notice was received on
April 1...sorry about that!).