



Program Info

What Makes Us Unique



LONG TERM FRIENDSHIPS

We focus on the formation of long-term friendships between neurotypical and special needs individuals



SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED

Our programs are specifically designed for adolescents and teens with special needs.



PROGRAM EVALUATION

Our programs are developed and evaluated by a panel of various community members including teen volunteers, parents of individuals with special needs, health professionals, educators, and activity-specific instructors with special needs certifications.



CUSTOM-BUILT PRIORITY SYSTEM

As opposed to first-come, first-serve, we have a custom-built priority system. This system generates a roster of accepted participants based on the amount of times a child has applied for, been accepted to, and attended events. Therefore, first-time applicants, new members and returning participants are able to attend our programs.



CONSISTENT SCHEDULE OF SERVICE HOURS

Volunteers who have required community service hours can rely on our programs as a consistent community service opportunity. Youth leadership opportunities are also available through our Teen Ambassador program.



Contact Info



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Friendsconnectfoundation.org



Facebook.com/friendsconnectfoundation



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Friends Connect Foundation (NP) is a registered 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization (Tax-ID: 82-5336571)



**FRIENDS
CONNECT
FOUNDATION**



**Promoting self-discovery and
social skills development in
special needs individuals.**



About Us

Our Mission

Friends Connect Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to develop bonds with local peers. Our programs assist participants in strengthening their social skills, increasing their self-esteem, and promoting their sense of belonging within the community.

Our Promise

We will strive to be the premier organization providing meaningful and enjoyable social programs for individuals with special needs.

Who We Serve

Our programs do not serve a specific special needs group nor do they limit or control who we serve. We often serve kids with developmental, physical, injury or illness induced challenges such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Phelan McDermid Syndrome, Fragile X, Cystic Fibrosis, hearing or vision impairment, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injuries, cancer, etc.



The Details

How it Works

Each program meets once a week for four weeks so that our participants are able to establish long-term friendships with their assigned buddy over the course of several events. Participants are assigned to a "Buddy" volunteer according to similar interests. All buddy pairs engage in the same general activity at our events. However, each buddy pair is organized into one of several groups with modified instructions and difficulty-levels. This way, individuals with or without restrictive needs are able to participate at all of our events.

Style The Stars Banquet

Friends Connect Foundation invites its participants to our *Style The Stars* Paparazzi-Themed Banquet. Each participant will come up in front of the audience to receive special recognition, an award, and a goodie bag for their hard work and involvement in our four-week social programs.



Programs

FITNESS

This program is perfect for the participant who loves to be active! Our Fitness Social Programs seek to provide fun, heart-pumping activities beyond typical sports. These activities may include yoga, dance, ice skating, field days, and color runs.

SELF-EXPRESSION

At our self-expression socials, volunteers and participants work together to create unique artwork related to the program's seasonal theme. These activities may include making murals and mosaics, painting on canvas, participating in "Soul Paint" with local artists, and designing clothing.

MUSIC

Our music social program provides participants and volunteers with opportunities to experiment with sound, explore different instruments, create songs, and sing! No previous experience or personal instruments necessary.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Through the social skills program, participants engage in activities that will strengthen their communication skills and ability to interact with the neurotypical community. These activities may include "Girls Night Out", "Guys Night", Cooking, and "Arcade Day".

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friends Connect Foundation believes that people of all abilities are able to give back to the community. This program assists our fellow nonprofits and local businesses through different service projects. These service projects include production line piece work to make goodie bags, creating and donating art, and attending events held by other organizations (i.e. beach sweeps and charity runs).