



Las Cruces, December, 2014.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO DOWN SYNDROME FAMILIES

WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Las Cruces Dream League Soccer Program Spring 2015

Registration for the Spring 2015 Las Cruces Dream League Soccer Program begins Monday, Dec. 14, at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The program provides a positive soccer atmosphere specifically designed for players with cognitive or physical challenges. The league will consist of basic experience and provides introductory skill development and games for soccer athletes with a wide variation of abilities. The program is available to individuals ages 4 to 17. Athletes will play against peers of similar size, age and ability. All games will be played at Meerscheidt Recreation Center.

Cost is \$10 per athlete, which includes a uniform shirt. The league is open to city and non-residents. Parents or care providers must be present with athletes during league activities. The program consists of two instructional workshops and four games. **The league will begin February 7, 2015 and run through March 14, 2015.** Coaches and volunteers are needed, and must pass a background check before participating.

For more information, call Recreation Programs at (575) 541-2455. The TTY number is (575) 541-2772



2015 Convention

- **June 25-28, 2015**
- **JW Marriott Desert Ridge, Phoenix, AZ**
- **Convention Registration will open March 2, 2015**

I attended the Convention last year, and all I can say is that every family should attend at least once. To be around families impacted by Down syndrome instead of feeling alone is a comforting feeling. There were all kinds of informative seminars. In addition, there were a number of sessions for siblings of those with Down syndrome. Many sessions were available in Spanish as well. I met families with newborns as well as adults with Down syndrome, so it is appropriate for all ages. Mateo enjoyed the Kid's Camp they provided while I attended some of the seminars. There were also social events, including dances, and these kids LOVE to dance.

Later in this Newsletter you will see an application form for a scholarship offered by the DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION of SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO to attend this year's Convention. I have confirmed that families from southern New Mexico are eligible to apply. The ARC also provides support for families to attend, especially first-time attendees. They provided the support for us to attend in Indianapolis last summer.

If you have serious interest in attending, please let me know. Registration begins in March. If you are unable to receive financial support from the above sources, the SNMDSF should be able to provide funding.

This is as close as the Convention has ever been to southern New Mexico. Let's send a caravan from Las Cruces this year!



Legislation

Most of our families are busy enough with daily activities, without the extra time to get involved in promoting legislation with our elected politicians. However, this is an area that can benefit our children greatly in the long run, so we will try to provide an update on issues important to Down syndrome families.

Did you know there is a Down Syndrome Caucus in Congress? A congressional caucus is a group formed as a “caucus” by members of the United States Congress that pursues common legislative objectives. This caucus was formed by Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who has a son born with Trisomy 21.

To see if your New Mexico representative is a member of this Caucus, go to:

http://www.globaldownsyndrome.org/get-involved/get-yourrepresentative-on-board/?page_id=4919

SNMDSF

“Bringing Families Together for a Better
Tomorrow”



Dear SNMDSF Families and Friends

*The glory and beauty of this wonderful season is something
we all can share together. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a prosperous New Year 2015!!!*

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