

Children's and Teen Program Highlights

Exciting programs have been developed for each age group of children and teens. These programs have been designed to entertain and enrich all children in the program, including children who use cochlear implants, those being considered for the implant, and their brothers and sisters. There are games, arts and craft activities, entertainment and field trips for the children to look forward to. There will also be free time for the children and their parents to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and amenities of the Sturbridge Host Hotel.

Responsible adult childcare providers are available during all scheduled adult activities so parents can participate freely. The care will be delivered by a combination of professional baby-sitters and graduate student chaperones from the Communication Disorders Programs at Northeastern University and Emerson College. The graduate students will be supervised by on-site faculty. Parents will be required to sign their children in and out of the morning, afternoon and evening events. Although childcare and chaperones are being provided, the children and teens are ultimately the responsibility of their parents at all times.

All children participating in these programs must be pre-registered by July 1st using the form in the center of this brochure. Parents or guardians must sign consent forms for all activities their children participate in. The consent forms will be in the registration packet you'll receive on registering at Sturbridge.

On Saturday the children under 11 years will have lunch with their parents in the large Exhibit Hall from noon to 1:30 PM. The children will also enjoy family time with their parents after the Saturday sessions end at 4:30 PM, until evening activities begin at 6:00 PM. The teens and 'tweens will have lunch on their own in the hotel courtyard atrium.

This is a full schedule. Careful family planning for the activities, supporting your children, and rest, will insure an enjoyable and meaningful weekend. If you think your young child will not separate from you happily for the Children's Program, perhaps you will enjoy the weekend more if your child stays with a relative. *Parents will not be allowed to bring children into educational sessions.* This rule will be enforced strictly.

Parents should pick up their children promptly at sign-out times.

For further information, contact the Children's Program Coordinators:

Ages 0 to <3 years: Cathy Pendleton <cpendleton2@aol.com>

Ages 3 to <11 years: Joan Celebi <joan.celebi@verizon.net>

Ages 11 to <18 years: Barbara Mellert <barbara.t.mellert@dartmouth.edu>

Ice Cream Social (Friday 7-9 PM) - Children Young and Old

All children and adults are invited to an Ice Cream Social, sponsored by *Cochlear Americas*. The children will have a chance to get to know one another and their chaperones. The 'tweens and teens will attend this social and then have their own get-acquainted party with creative games. The teens will also have a "hang-out" room that will be open after the party and at other times.

Saturday Schedule, July 9:

8:30 am - 11:30 am - Age Group Activities

11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Lunch with Parents

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Age Group Activities

6:15 pm - 8:45 pm - Optional Dinner Program

Sunday Schedule, July 10:

8:30 am - 11:30 am - Age Group Activities

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm - Optional BBQ Lunch with Parents

Infants/Toddler Childcare (Sat. & Sun.) - Children 0 to 2.11

Licensed childcare workers will care for children ages 0-2.11 years. Separate childcare rooms will be provided for infants and toddlers, with appropriate activities throughout the day. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided as well as rest time for the youngsters who need it. If your child requires a crib for napping it is recommended that you supply your own portable crib, as the hotel has a limited number available. *Bring everything your child will need, and label it with your child's name.*

Young Children (Sat. & Sun.) - Children 3 to 5 ½

Saturday morning, children 3-5 ½ years will make posters for the Poster Art Festival under the guidance of Mary Bruno, BFA, who has 15 years' experience developing arts & craft activities for young children. The posters will be exhibited in the hotel hallways for all to enjoy. The children will also explore textures and crafts in age-appropriate projects. In the afternoon, the children will engage in movement activities appropriate to their age, guided by Physical Education Specialist Michael Catalano.

For the optional Saturday evening, children 3-5 ½ years will enjoy a family style diner in the hotel indoor courtyard and then return to their activity rooms for an evening of relaxation and watching movies.

Sunday morning, children 3-5 ½ years will enjoy the performance of magic of George Hebert, "Joy the Magical Clown". Then they will walk to the Hawthorne Exhibit Hall where they will make musical instruments with Mary Bruno, play games, and have their faces painting by Cindi Colombo, "Miss Winkie". The morning will culminate with a Mardi-Gras musical parade through the hotel back to their room.

Afterwards the youth and children will join their families for the optional barbecue lunch and will say goodbye to old and new friends as they leave Sturbridge for 2011.

Children (Sat. & Sun.) - Children 5 ½ thru 10

Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village (Saturday morning) - *Children 5 ½ thru 10*

This outdoor history museum and re-created New England town of the 1830's is only a short ride and 175 years away from the hotel! Children 5 ½ thru 10 years will be divided into small groups and pre-assigned to a chaperone for the visit to Old Sturbridge Village. Children 5 ½ thru 7 years will participate in hands-on activities in the Museum Education building. Each group will rotate among stations where they will practice home activities of the 1830's such as spinning and weaving, fireplace cooking, printing and decorative arts. Children 8 thru 10 years will explore the 200-acre village on tours led by chaperones. Unpaved roads lead to houses, farms, shops, mills and gardens typical of 19th century rural New England.

After lunch at the hotel with their parents, children 5 ½ thru 10 years will spend the afternoon with Joan Celebi in our Convention Mentoring Program. They will get to play cool games, take part in fascinating activities, chat with teens who have cochlear implants, compete in zany contests, and in the process get to know each other better.

For the optional Saturday evening, children 5 ½ thru 10 years will enjoy a family style diner in the hotel indoor courtyard and then walk to the Exhibit Hall for an evening of activities that are fun and educational. In the Exhibit Hall the children will rotate through stations guided by a pair of marvelous children's entertainers. Mike Catalano, a Physical Education Specialist, will provide a movement, education and fitness program in which kids develop their motor skills and sport skills while they learn about cooperative play and character development. These movement activities are fun and creative. The second station will feature a magic show with Cindi Colombo, "Miss Winkie".

Sunday morning, children 5 ½ thru 10 years will have fun making and decorating musical instruments with Mary Bruno, BFA, Arts and Crafts specialist, and playing games, followed by a Mardi-Gras musical parade with their instruments through the hotel. At the end of the parade they will enjoy a performance of the magic of George Hebert, "Joy the Magical Clown".

Afterwards the youth and children will join their families for the optional barbecue lunch and will say goodbye to old and new friends as they leave Sturbridge for 2011.

Children (Sat. & Sun.) - Children 11 to 18

The 'tweens and teens program starts Friday evening from 8:00-9:15pm with a get-acquainted party including creative games. There is also a "hang-out" room that will be open after the party and at other times during the convention.

Keynote and Rap Sessions (Saturday morning) - *Teens/Tweens 11-18*

The teens and 'tweens will start the morning attending the convention keynote address to hear Curtis Pride share his inspirational story of growing up deaf and, in 1996, becoming the first full-season deaf player in the modern era of Major League Baseball. After the keynote, there will be activities followed by rap groups for, respectively, teens, 'tweens and their hearing siblings.

The teens and 'tweens will continue to socialize during their lunch together in the hotel atrium, rather than with their parents like the younger children. After lunch there will be activities, including mentoring the younger children, followed by a rap with Curtis Pride, discussion topics include tips for succeeding in sports with a hearing loss. Afterwards, the teens and 'tweens will join with Curtis Pride for games of wiffle ball in the Hawthorne exhibit hall.

For the optional Saturday evening activities, the teens and 'tweens will board a bus for a fun evening of bowling and dinner at a nearby pizza restaurant. Remember you need socks for bowling!

Sunday morning, the teens and 'tweens will enjoy the climbing tower sponsored by Massachusetts AGBell Association. Remember to wear closed toed shoes for climbing! Along with the climbing tower, they will enjoy mini golf and other social activities. The 'tweens may also be interested in attending the panel discussion, *We Hear You, Now You Hear Us*, in which a panel of school age cochlear implant users share their experiences. The teens may choose to attend the panel, *We're in College Now!* This panel will discuss the college application process, getting needed accommodations, and surviving and thriving in college.

Afterwards the teens and 'tweens will join their families for the optional barbecue lunch and will say goodbye to old and new friends as they leave Sturbridge for 2011.