

E-CONNECTOR

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

Inside this issue:

- WANTED: PARENTS AND BLIND KIDS AT NFBCO CHAPTER MEETINGS!
- CHAPTER MEETING FOR MOM AND DAD...ART FUN FOR KIDS
- TO THE MALL AND BEYOND
- STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS SEMINAR
- DRIVER TRAINING FOR THE BLIND (May 2nd ...RSVP Now!)
- CALLING ALL SUMMER CAMPERS
- CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



WANTED: PARENTS AND BLIND KIDS AT NFBCO CHAPTER MEETINGS!

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are your child, or a child you know, is (choose whatever term you like to use): blind, legally blind, low vision, partially sighted, visually impaired, sight impaired, visually challenged...I'm sure the list of possibilities goes on and on. No matter what degree of legal blindness applies, the National Federation of the Blind is the organization representing the rights of your child, now and into adulthood. Perhaps you thought the NFB was for adult blind people. The fact is the NFB is made up of blind and sighted people of all ages working together to identify and confront latent (and sometimes not so latent) discrimination against blind persons, no matter which of the above definitions you use. What kinds of discrimination

are we talking about? Here are a few examples:

Problem: E-readers (Kindles and Nooks) are being distributed to schools for students to use for all textbook reading. The e-Readers are not fully accessible for non-visual access ...The NFB is on the case!

Problem: Computerized standardized tests are being designed so that depending on the student's answers to questions, the test will be customized to that individual. These tests are not accessible to students using screen readers...The NFB is on the case!

Problem: Bus drivers often fail to announce the stops even when a request has been made by a rider, causing the rider to go many blocks beyond his destination...The NFB is on the case, pushing RTD to install automatic announcement technology.

These are just a few of the issues that the NFB works on which will benefit your child sometime in the future. The NFB wants parents to be involved in this work...to help

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@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.

identify problems and to participate in the process of bringing about change. The NFB also wants blind and visually impaired youngsters to join in and become engaged in self-advocacy. Together we can make a better tomorrow for our kids

There are regular meetings of the NFB of Colorado chapters in downtown Denver, Littleton, Westminster, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Greeley, and Pueblo. The [NFB of Colorado website](#) Chapters and Divisions page has information on meeting logistics. Meanwhile, read the next article to learn about a new feature being offered at chapter meetings designed to welcome newcomers.



CHAPTER MEETING FOR MOM AND DAD...ART FUN FOR KIDS

Parents and kids: Come try out the NFB of Denver chapter meeting on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. While the parents join the monthly NFB of Denver meeting, the kids, ages 3-15, will work with tactile art specialist, Ann Cunningham and blind mentors to create a tactile art piece for Mother's Day. The chapter meeting will include a discussion of tactile art with a display of pieces created by

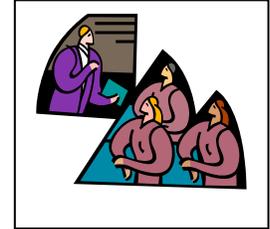
students at the Colorado Center for the Blind. At the end of the chapter meeting the children will have the opportunity to show off their own artwork. Spaces in the art program are limited, so please contact Brent Batron (bbatron@cocenter.org or 303-778-1130, ext. 222) to confirm a space for your child. See you there!



TO THE MALL AND BEYOND...

Most sighted people have no idea how a blind person can manage to live independently. Blind people who travel, shop and manage their homes are often termed "amazing" by the general public. Although some non-visual techniques are taught to blind children in school and at home, what can't be taught is confidence. Confidence is gained by practice, experience and association with blind adults who demonstrate that "where there's a will, there's a way". To demonstrate how blind people manage certain every day activities, Maureen Nietfeld, who is the home management instructor at the Colorado Center for the Blind, has begun posting short videos on the NFB of Colorado blog. Go to www.nfbco.blogspot.com

to see Maureen's demonstrations of: [How a Blind Person Shops at the Mall](#), [How a Blind Person Organizes Her Closet](#), and [How a Blind Person Puts on Makeup](#).



STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS SEMINAR

For high school students who plan to attend college and college students.

WHEN: Saturday May 4, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Brooks Towers
1020 15th St.
Denver, CO

The Colorado Association of Blind Students invites blind high school students who are bound for college to join them for an informational seminar. Learn about: Financial aid and scholarship opportunities; Technology and screen readers in the college environment; How to land summer internships, and more. Ask questions and learn from the experiences of college students. Lunch will be provided. For more information and to RSVP contact Colorado Association of Blind Students president, Arielle Silverman, at arielle71@gmail.com.



**DRIVER TRAINING...
FOR THE BLIND!**

Most teenagers cannot wait to be old enough to get a driver’s license. Blind teens, on the other hand, have to resign themselves to riding shotgun with their friends. BUT WAIT! Here’s a chance for your blind high school son or daughter to drive a car! MasterDrive, a company recognized for its driver’s training for teens, is ready to teach blind high school age kids to drive! There will be a classroom session to learn about driving and handling a car. Then it’s out to a parking lot where the blind student drivers will have the opportunity to negotiate an obstacle course. Once the basic driving skills are mastered, the drivers will get to recover from a skid on the specially designed asphalt surface. How cool is that? Call immediately to register as this experience will take place on May 2nd. Contact Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator, 303-778-1130, ext. 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org.

**SPACE IS LIMITED. CALL TODAY
TO CHECK ON AVAILABILITY!**



**CALLING ALL SUMMER
CAMPER! REGISTER NOW!**

This is a brief review of NFB and CCB summer programs: See the March e-Connector for full descriptions or contact Brent Batron for more information. bbatron@cocenter.org or 303-778-1130 ext. 222.

AGES 5-10
Confidence Camp For Kids,
Elementary School Program,
June 10- June 21. This day program is about building skills and confidence while having fun. Take a look at [this video](#) to see what it’s all about.

AGES 4-12
BELL: (Braille Literacy
Program) Children gain confidence in reading and writing Braille while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities. In Colorado Springs from June 17-27. In the Denver Metro area (Westminster) from July 15-26.

**➔PARENT VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR BELL!** Teacher assistants and drivers for field trips are needed. Contact Jessica Beecham for more information: jbeecham@cocenter.org or 303-778-1130, ext. 223.

AGES 12-14
Initiation to Independence,
Middle School Program, July 15-August 2 Residential program. Apartment living (with a counselor), shopping, cooking, recreational activities as well as building skills in Braille, cane travel and more.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Earn and Learn Program, June 7 – August 2 Students will have a half day paid work experience and half day program in building skills to become an employable adult. A trip to the NFB National Convention is included.

COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS
Summer for Success College
Prep Program, June 7–August 2 Students will learn how to navigate a college campus and survive in the college classroom. A trip to the NFB National Convention is included.

**CALENDAR OF
UPCOMING EVENTS**



May events that have been described in this issue:
May 2: Driver Training for Blind Teens
May 4: College Information Seminar
May 18: Denver Chapter Meeting and Art Class for Kids