

SOCIAL PROGRAM POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Social Program Purpose

The purpose of the Social Program of The Arc of Katy is to provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to interact with others to the full extent of their ability in a safe, supervised community setting and to have fun! Social Programs are held monthly September-May. The Social Calendar is located online at www.thearcofkaty.org

SAFETY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IS THE PRIMARY CONCERN AT ANY FUNCTION SPONSORED BY THE ARC OF KATY. ATTENDING SOCIALS IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.

Requirements

All Participants must be a paid member in good standing with The Arc of Katy, at least 16 years of age and completed/submitted the required paperwork. Non-member guests will not be permitted to attend any function.

Participant Requirements for attending Socials

- Take care of all personal self-help needs
- Be ambulatory
- Maintain appropriate behavior
- Be able to participate in a group setting without one-on-one attention
- Desire to attend the social
- Check participant in and out with appropriate supervisor
- Dress appropriately
- Be respectful of all staff, volunteers, other participants and property
- Participate in activities with a positive, cooperative and willing attitude
- Accept self-responsibility
- Have own transportation with prompt on time arrival and pickup
- Have a parent/legal guardian who will communicate with social supervisor
- Have fun and enjoy the company of others

No one will be permitted to attend Social Program events until all paperwork is on file. Please allow 2 weeks for processing the paperwork.

Sign In Procedures for Social Program Events

Parent/Legal Guardian must sign Participant in, verifying:

Current contact information

Participant's safe arrival

Current health or behavior issues

Designated time and name of person to pick up Participant from activity.

Parent/Legal Guardian may NOT drop off Participant without signing in.

The Arc of Katy cannot ensure food prepared by outside sources is completely gluten free. It is, therefore, recommended that Participants with special dietary needs bring their own snacks/refreshments to socials. The Arc of Katy staff members or volunteers are not permitted to place a special meal order for a social Participant. The Arc of Katy cannot be liable should a Participant consume a food that is not gluten free or reacts to a food listed as "gluten free".

Behavior at Social Program Events

**SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE GOAL AT ALL OF THE ARC OF KATY
FUNCTIONS. INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

- Physical violence will result in The Arc of Katy sponsors immediately escorting Participant from the activity room. The Parents/Legal Guardians will be called requesting immediate pick up of Participant and, at the sole discretion of The Arc of Katy Sponsors, appropriate law enforcement officials may be notified. Such acts will result in immediate and indefinite suspension of privilege of Participant attending social activities.
- Sexually inappropriate behavior will result in The Arc of Katy sponsors immediately escorting Participant from the activity room. The Parents/Legal Guardians will be called requesting immediate pick up of Participant and, at the sole discretion of The Arc of Katy Sponsors, appropriate law enforcement officials may be notified. Such acts will result in immediate and indefinite suspension of privilege of Participant attending social activities.
- The following steps will be taken for all other inappropriate behavior(s) as determined by The Arc of Katy sponsors:
 1. A verbal warning will be given to the Participant by The Arc of Katy sponsors.

2. If inappropriate behavior continues The Arc of Katy Sponsors will ask the Participant to leave the area and go sit in another room for a cooling off period.
 3. If a Participant fails to comply with The Arc of Katy sponsors requests or inappropriate behavior continues, Parents/Legal Guardians will be called to come help manage behavior for the remainder of the Social Program event or, at the discretion of The Arc of Katy sponsors, to take Participant home.
 4. If inappropriate behavior continues at the following Social Program event, a Participant will lose the privilege of attending the next Social Program event.
- **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUESTS OF AN ARC OF KATY SPONSOR WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE AND INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF PRIVILEGE TO ATTEND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.**

Parent Responsibilities

Parents/Legal Guardians should explain the Social Program Policy and Guidelines to their Participant in terms they can understand. Should Participant's disability require one-on-one attention, The Arc of Katy requires that Parent/legal guardian attend the entire event to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all. If attending Parent/Legal Guardian cannot or will not control inappropriate behavior, or is either unwilling or unable to attend the entire event, Participant will have an indefinite suspension of privilege of attending Social Program events.

Indemnification

The Parents/Legal Guardians/Participant acknowledge their agreement to indemnify The Arc of the United States, The Arc of Texas, The Arc of Katy, any Arc of Katy staff/volunteers, any Arc of Katy Board Member or director, Owner (including his/her agent(s), staff/volunteers) at any facility in which an Arc of Katy event activity is held, Activities Sponsors, any Arc of Katy contract employee their agents, heirs, successors, assigns and/or representatives of any and all legal fees, courts costs, fees, expenses, interest and general costs or expenses associated with any legal actions arising out of Participant's involvement in The Arc of Katy Social Program.

If you feel your participant can follow the guidelines, meets the requirements and would enjoy attending The Arc of Katy Socials please contact us at info@thearcofkaty.org or telephone (832) 754-9802.