

Events and Activities

Friday Morning Bingo At the Huskies Café

Date: Friday May 9, 2014

Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Cost: \$4.00 per person

Location: Huskie's Café. This is the Café at the DDS Office Building, Also known as the Campbell Building, 401 West Thames Street
Norwich CT.

What: Offering Bingo with prizes, coffee, water, and assorted snacks.

Optional: Order a pizza to share \$10.00; Sm. Grinder w/Bag of Chips & Fountain Drink \$5.00

For more information: Call Karen 860-204-0617

Huskies Café is a Food Consistency Friendly Restaurant.

Karen will prepare your meal in whatever food consistency you require.

Dances at the Norwich American Legion Hall sponsored by Guide Inc.

Date:

- May 9, 2013
- September 12, 2013
- November 14, 2013

Time: 6:00 to 8:00pm

Location: American Legion Hall, 456 Laurel Hill Ave. **Norwich**

Cost: \$2.00

What: Really fun Dances with music videos on the wall, dinner & soda too!

Questions: please call 860-887-9383

Beach Party Karaoke At the Huskies Café'

****Dinner and Dance****

Date: Friday June 6, 2014

Time: 5:00-8:00pm

Location: : Huskie's Café This is the Café at the DDS Office Building, also known as the Campbell Building,
401 West Thames Street, **Norwich** CT.

Cost: with Reservations- \$10 a ticket (space is limited to first 100) \$12 at the door

For Reservations: Contact Karen or Patty at Huskies 860-204-0617 When making your reservation let them
know of any Food Consistency requirements (ie. puree, ground, chop).

Huskies Café is a Food Consistency Friendly Restaurant.

Karen will prepare your meal in whatever food consistency you require.

DDS Recreation - South Region - Pam Okerblom – (860) 859-5482

401 West Thames St. Unit 202, Norwich CT 06360-7155

Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov

Playgroup Shoreline Saturday Drop in Playgroup

A collaborative effort of: The Grove School, Madison, Kidsteps, Family and Children's Center and the CT Family Support Network
LEGO and Rainbow Loom activities weekly

Open Playgroup is a family support group that meets every Saturday at alternating SARAH, Inc. locations in Branford and Westbrook. This **free, drop-in** group is open to families with children of **all ages and abilities, siblings included**.

Children will have the opportunity to meet with other children and participate in activities and games with volunteer student mentors. Parents can socialize, make connections, access information and receive support from other parents and staff.

Saturdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Locations and Dates:

SARAH in Action 1620 Boston Post Rd. **Westbrook**

May, 10th Westbrook

May, 31st Westbrook

SARAH in Action 1 Commercial St. (Rte. 139) **Branford**

May 3rd Branford

May 17th Branford

June 7th Branford

For first time registration or more information
contact Deborah Pagano at dpagano@ctfsn.org or call 203-430-0242
Kathy Fadel at kidsteps-fcc@sarah-inc.org or call 203-453-7592 x2

%%

Parent's Group

Support Group for **Parents with Intellectual Disabilities**

All are welcome

Kids are welcome

When: 2nd Wednesday of every month

- Next meeting is May 14, 2014

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm with Pot luck dinner

Location: The Campbell Building at 401 West Thames Street, **Norwich**, CT 06360
(Room 339)

For more information: contact Amy at 860-859-5474 or Rhonda at 860-859-5578

%%

Parents as Leaders: Supporting your Child with a Learning Disability – presented by

Ramapo for Children

May 15 at 6:30p.m. at SARAH in Action 51 Boston Post Rd., **Madison**

As always any questions or to register for an event call Kathy Fadel Family Services Coordinator

203-453-7592 ext. 2

kidsteps-fcc@sarah-inc.org

www.sarah-inc.org

%%

CAMP HARKNESS

CLEAN-UP DAY

CAMP HARKNESS

Volunteers wanted: COME help **CLEAN-UP**, plant and clean-up grounds ...
bring rakes, shovels, pruners, work gloves and have fun outside while giving a great gift of your time and Energy!

Date: **SUNDAY** MAY 18, 2013

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Location: Camp Harkness, 301 Great Neck Road, **Waterford**

Please call ahead to sign up: (860) 443-7818

Touch-A Truck

Saturday, May 17, 2014 (Rain date Sunday)

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

McCook Point Park, **Niantic**, Connecticut

Cost: \$4 per person. Children age two and under are admitted free of charge.

The main event is trucks – 30 of them - including a fire truck, smoke truck, bucket truck, cement mixer, satellite truck, Humvee, paramedic van and police cruiser to name a few. New additions this year will include a 2012 BMW X5, an antique fire truck, an American Safe Wash truck and a Crest Ford truck. Rounding out the venue will be a variety of crafts, face painting, Mad Science, balloon animals, a raffle and a photoshoot in a huge truck tire sponsored by Crest Ford. In addition there will be hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, ice cream and soda for sale for lunch. The Roaming Railroad, a trackless train, will be onsite to provide short excursions around the top of the park for \$2 each.

%%

**March with DDS Self Advocates at the
Middletown Memorial Day Parade**

Consumers, families, and friends are invited to march in the Parade on

Monday, May 26, 2014

Main Street, **Middletown**

Line-up begins at 9:30 a.m.

Parade kicks off at 10:30 a.m.

Questions: Contact Latasha Linwood at
#860-724-5951 or latasha.linwood@ct.gov

%%

**4th ANNUAL QV SPECIAL OLYMPIC TALENT SHOWCASE
"Stars on Broadway"**

When: Friday May 30th 6:30 P.M.

Saturday May 31st 1:00 P.M.

Where: Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium

119 Gorman Road, **Brooklyn, CT**

Tickets prices:

\$10.00 per person Children 5 and under admitted free

Come and join us for a show filled with singing, dancing and comedy, presented for your enjoyment by our own athletes, volunteers, family members & friends.

All proceeds will benefit our area Special Olympic programs.

Come visit us during intermission for delicious refreshments and take a chance on a gift basket

**DDS SOUTH REGION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
CT FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK**

Presents the

2014 Living Happy, Healthy and Safe Lives Fair

The Free Family Fair will be held on:

Thursday, June 5th, 2014

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Three Rivers Community College

574 New London Turnpike, **Norwich**, CT

The focus of the fair is to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of our consumers. We will provide individuals and families information in the following areas:

Autism Services
Aging
Mental Health
Special Needs Trusts
Respite
Healthy Food Choices

Pet and Music Therapy
Community Supports
Vacations
Recreation
Vocational Supports
Camps

Health Care
Job Training
Transportation
Assistive Technology
Hospice
Dental Care

If you are planning to come please let us know: by e-mailing (preferred method) Lisa Lockwood
lisa.lockwood@ct.gov (203) 294-5165
or Sarah Abelli sarah.abelli@ct.gov (203) 294-5018.

ZUMBA... Sponsored by: ASRC in Wallingford

Date: Open House to try Zumba before you sign up Friday June 6, 5:00 – 6:00

Location: ASRC Center 101 North Plains Industrial Rd. **Wallingford**

What: Want to experience a Zumba class before registering? Come to our FREE open house! We will be hosting short Zumba demonstrations, offering healthy snacks and accepting registrations!

ASRC is excited to collaborate with **promOTing participATIOn, LLC & Communication Foundations, LLC** to offer a Zumba program for teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorders. Our program will incorporate the use of pop and hip hop music to make this class current and fun!

Program Details:

Dates: Fridays, June 20th – August 15th ***NO CLASS:** July 4th

Time: 5:00-5:45pm

Location: ASRC Center, 101 North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford

Instructor: Missy Olson, M.S., SpEd/AT, OTR/L, certified Zumba instructor

Ages: 13 years and up

Class Size: Minimum 5, Maximum 15

Fee: \$80 per person (\$10 per class)

Registration Deadline: Individuals MUST pre-register by **Monday, June 9th**

Requirements: Individuals must be able to participate independently without 1:1 supervision. Mentor participation is welcome – we hope to provide peer models too!

For information or to register: Emily Swindelles, emily@autismconnecticut.org

Art Exploration and Creation... Sponsored by: ASRC in Wallingford

We are excited to introduce our **NEW** arts and crafts program for children with autism spectrum disorders **ages 8-11 years old**. Exploration and Creation will provide participants the opportunity to experience 8 weeks of various arts and craft projects, ie... Drawing, Polymer Clay, Painting, Decoupage, Pastels, Perler Beads

Program Details:

Dates: Saturdays, June 14th – August 9th ***NO CLASS – JULY 5TH**

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Ages: 8-11 years old

Class Size: minimum: 5 students, maximum: dependent on number of peer mentors

Cost: \$120 per person (\$15 per class)

Location: ASRC Center, 101 North Plains Industrial Road, Wallingford

Instructor: Barbara Kanner

Registration Deadline: Monday, May 26th

Requirements: Individuals must be able to work independently and follow directions as we are unable to offer 1:1 supervision this session. Mentor participation is welcome.

For information or to register: Emily Swindelles, emily@autismconnecticut.org

Sail Connecticut Access Program www.sailctaccess.org

What: We are a volunteer group founded in 1989 to offer persons with special needs the opportunity to enjoy sailing - not only as passengers, but as skippers - and to encourage people with and without special needs to share the experience. Sail Connecticut allows challenged persons to move beyond disabilities so that they may focus on abilities. For a Visual Tour (which is truly amazing... I want to do it now! Simply go to:

<http://www.sailctaccess.org/wp-content/diane/Tour2.pdf>

Free Open House Dates: Saturday Dates: (Rain dates are the next day Sunday)

June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, 2014

Our Open Houses begin at 9:30 AM, and a barbecue lunch is served between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Last sail leaves at 2:30 pm, program ends at 4 pm. Bring sunglasses and sunscreen.

Location: Brewer Pilots Point Marina. Off Route One (Boston Post Road) **Westbrook**, CT

For more information: or for a Visual Tour go to: <http://www.sailctaccess.org/wp-content/diane/Tour2.pdf>

MUSE

Gallery of Art & Inspiration

Come see the 3rd Show with works from 31 Artists from the DDS community

The show runs from April 25, 2014 to August 31, 2014

8:30am-5:00pm

Located in Campbell Building Lobby

401 W. Thames Street, **Norwich**, CT 06360

Kerry Hayward will be accepting art submissions for the next show starting

August 1, 2014. For question call Kerry at 860-859-5419

AUTISM Summer 2014

At the Ryan Woods Autism Foundation in **Middletown** CT

June 23 - August 15, 2014

Don't get left out – Register NOW / Deadline JUNE 2nd
Mon-Fri, 1:00pm – 5:00 pm & **ALL DAY** 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ryan Woods Autism Foundation offers:

Social / Life Skills	Building Friendships
Fishing / Basketball	Credentialed/Trained Team
Music in a LIVE studio	Connecticut Science Museum
High Hopes	Horse Farm
Learn to Golf * First Tee @ TPC	Flight / Bounce U / Playing Pool
Picking Berries @ Lyman Orchards	
And so much more...	

100 Riverview Center, Lower Level, Middletown 06457 rwaf@comcast.net *

www.ryanwoodsautismfoundation.org

Clinical Site * DCF credentialed & DPH licensed [70113] * DDS (pending)

%%

Free Day of Surfing and Fun provided by Sensations Charitable Foundation

Date: September 6, 2014

Time: 9:00 to 4:00

Volunteers Wanted!

Location: Misquamicut Beach, **Westerly RI** USA

Cost: Free to participants

What: Free day of surfing and fun for the disabled, dysfunctional and dedicated. Thanks to SOS, Paddy's Beach Club, and the Breezeway Resort.

For Information: E-mail Brian Armstong at brian@empoweringabilities.org

%%

Ongoing programs

Bowling in Groton Weekly

Date: Ongoing program that meets every Wednesday

Time: 3:30 to 4:30ish

Location: Spare Time Bowling Alley 27 Kings Highway, **Groton**, CT

Cost: \$6:50 for 2 games and shoe rental

What: This is an ongoing social bowling program run by Bob and Pat Garcia (parents) at the Spare Time. If you are interested in joining the group simply show up between 3:00 and 3:30 and let Bob know you are there to bowl. Parents and caregivers are invited to stay and socialize with all the other parents. There is a nice group of parents there every week.

Questions: please call Pam Okerblom: 860-859-5482 or Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov

%%%%%%%%%

Gentle Yoga for All at Camp Harkness

Open to All (passholders, staff, family, friends, neighbors, volunteers)

Date: Tuesdays 4:15 to 5:15pm

Location: Dorcus Lodge, Camp Harkness 301 Great Neck Rd, **Waterford** 06385

Cost: Free for all DDS consumers and pass holders and only \$5.00 for Community friends

Please bring a Mat (if you have one) and bottle of water.

Please RSVP Vicki at: Camp Harkness 860-443-7818

Co-sponsored by SECADD and DDS Camp Harkness

%%%%%%%%%

Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT) has provided year-round sports training and athletic competition for children 8 and up with intellectual disabilities. SOCT serves 14,815 athletes and partners throughout the state through local, regional and state programs.

To find a program near you or for general information about getting someone involved with Special Olympics go to www.soct.org or you can contact Sue Mohr at (203) 230-1201 x239 or susanm@soct.org

Mission Statement

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Let me WIN. But if I cannot win, Let me be BRAVE in the attempt.

%%%%%%%%%

Ride the Shetucket

Once monthly during the warm weather season, the Town of **Sprague** in conjunction with First Light Power Resources has scheduled water release from Scotland Dam. They will take place allowing a water level high enough to paddle or tube from below Scotland Dam to River Park in Baltic.

Dates for 2014 are: April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, October 11, 2014.

Water release is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on days of the event. Participants (**Paddlers need to have PFD's and a distress whistle**) can put in any time between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. You can ride the river as many times as water level allows. The ride is 4 miles long and takes approximately 1-2 hours depending on water volume. The Town of Sprague will provide a free shuttle between River Park and Scotland Dam.

Since Ride the Shetucket is weather sensitive even, check the Town website on the Thursday prior to the event for any cancellation postings.

DDS Recreation - South Region - Pam Okerblom – (860) 859-5482

401 West Thames St. Unit 202, Norwich CT 06360-7155

Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov

Do you know about *Camp Harkness* AND all the WONDERFUL THINGS it has to offer

YOU for FREE Year Round?

Camp Harkness is a Connecticut State Park and Camp designed for people with Special Challenges. The 102-acre park is accessible and is located on Long Island Sound **Waterford** CT. There is so much to see and do including: Picnic Pavilions, Accessible Playscape, Cabins, tent Sites, Gardening programs, and Special Events,

And it is all free to pass holders and their families.

For information on all Camp Harkness has to offer and for a pass Application:

go to the Camp Harkness website at <http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=2653&q=393150>

Or google: DDS: Camp Harkness, If you do not have access to the internet please call Nancy. Kogut for Pass Information: (860) 859- 5554

New this year: **Camp Harkness publishes a Newsletter.** It is full of news and interesting stories to keep you up to date on all that is happening at the park. To receive your own copy of the newsletter call Camp Harkness at 860-443-7818

Support Groups

Parent's Group

Support Group for Parents **with** Intellectual Disabilities

All are welcome

Kids are welcome

When: 2nd Wednesday of every month

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm with Pot luck dinner

Location: The Campbell Building at 401 West Thames Street, **Norwich**, CT 06360
(Room 339)

For more information: contact Amy at 860-859-5474 or Rhonda at 860-859-5578

Village School Sibshop

Primary Contact: Eric Carson
Area Cooperative Educational Services
31 Temple Street
North Haven, CT 06473 [map](#)

Phone: (203) 234-7611

Sibshop Description: We provide a fun environment to meet other sibs with similiar experiences as brothers and sisters of children with special needs. The focus is having fun and making new friends, but some time is set aside for discussion as well.

We're Special Too!" Sibshops

Primary Contact: Lisa Vita
Friends of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital
20 York St. SP 7-414
New Haven, CT 006510 [map](#)
Phone: (203) 688 6880
<http://www.ynhh.org>

Sibshop Description: "We're Special Too!" sponsors free monthly support groups for children and teens ages 5-17.

Connecticut Family Support Network

Support Group Schedule – 2014

** For more information go to the CTFSN website at www.ctfsn.org **

The Parent Chat Support Group is a fantastic group where you can meet other friendly and supportive parents who have children with special needs.

Southeast Region: *April Dipollina, Regional Coordinator*

L&M Hospital Parent Support Group in **New London** meets on the

first Wednesday of the month

at **6:00pm** in conference room 3.

L&M Hospital, Montauk Ave. New London

(unless there is a special event that month.

Please be sure to check our [Calendar](#) page for the latest meeting information).

%%%%%%%%%

South Central Region: *Deborah Pagano, Regional Coordinator*

This group meets **every Tuesday morning throughout the year**

from **9:30-10:30**

at the **Women & Family Life Center**

located on **96 Fair St., in Guilford.**

- Free childcare is provided
- You can begin at anytime

For more information please see the attached flyer or to register please email or call:

Deborah Pagano at dpagano@ctfsn.org 203-430-0242 or

Kathy Fadel at kidsteps-FCC@sarah-inc.org 203-453-7592, x2

%%%%%%%%%

West Haven (and area towns):

W.H.I.N.C. West Haven Interagency Network for Children Local System of Care (203- 937-3633)

Check out their website. www.whinc.org and www.wrapct.org

They host a variety of Support Groups including: **Parent Support Group**, **AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** and a **Spanish Support Group for families with Special Needs Children**. Once you are an active member of the support group you and your family will be eligible to attend their many wonderful activities (Children with Special Needs Program monthly activities and summer program)

They do offer 2 programs that you don't have to be a member to participate... that is their karate and duckpin bowling programs. Registration for these two programs will be September 17 & 18 at the Johnson Community Center, 201 Noble Street, from 4:30 to 6:00. The cost is \$45.00 for each program

DDS Recreation - South Region - Pam Okerblom – (860) 859-5482

401 West Thames St. Unit 202, Norwich CT 06360-7155 Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov

Parks and Recreation

Please note that this is not a complete list of Recreation Programs in our area. It is simply a list of town programs I am aware of that have adaptive program. Please check with your town to find out what they offered. Remember, that if you town does not have what you are looking for, check out area towns as well. They often welcome non-Residents.

Groton Parks and Recreation

www.groton-ct.gov/depts/parksrec/

All are welcome to register. Both Groton Residents and non-Residents alike.

Groton has a wonderful varied program that includes:

- Special Olympics year round
- Adaptive swimming,
- adaptive Rowing
- Adaptive Kayaking
- adaptive Karate
- Special Recreation
- Cooking for fun
- Painting
- And Camp Button a special needs summer camp (Groton Residents only)

For more information call Eileen Cicchese at 860-536-5691

Middletown Recreation Division

100 Riverview Center #140, [Middletown](#), CT 06457 [\(860\) 638-4500](tel:8606384500)

Middletown Recreation Division offers a diversified Inclusion Program for participants with Special Needs age 8 – 21. For older individuals, Middletown Recreation Division recognizes the value of including people with all levels of ability as a means of strengthening our community and providing a recreational choice. We provide opportunities for people with and without disabilities to experience recreation together. For specific information concerning policy and programming, please call our office at 860.638.4500. Please provide ten days notification to provide significant support.

<http://www.cityofmiddletown.com/content/117/123/159/>

Milford Recreation Department

Milford Recreation / Parsons Complex

70 West River St. [Milford](#), CT

203-783-3280

Milford Parks and Recreation Department has Adaptive Programs including:

Adaptive Programs

- Adaptive Ballet They are now accepting registration for participation in the Adaptive Nutcracker for 2014! It is a wonderful, program to participate in or watch!
- Adaptive Guitar Lessons
- iCan Bike
- Musical Theater
- Sing N Sign

For more information on the Adaptive programs contact:

Deb Marchese, marchesedebr@optonline.net or call 203-550-2520

You can look up the information at: <http://www.milfordrecreation.com/info/activities/>

Challenger Baseball for kids ages 7-21. This program is accepting registration now. **Every participant will receive a team Jersey and Hat. Games and practices will be on Saturdays.** If you would like to join the team, contact Rich Minnix at Milford Parks and Recreation at: **(203) 783-3280**

Groton Light House Program: Summer Friends

860-445-7626 Ext 105

Summer Friends
Social Skills Programming
The Light House, **Groton**

Summer Friends is designed for participants in middle and high school with Asperger's Syndrome and high functioning autism. (Students must be able to care for themselves and have independence in toileting and feeding)

Social skills that are focused on include, but are not limited to: conversation, perspective taking, problem solving, reading social cues and developing a social life in the community.

Summer Friends meets Monday-Friday from 2-5pm July 7th through August 8th

For more information please contact Christopher Smith at 860-445-7626 Ext. 105
or by email: Csmith@lhcampus.com

%%

The ARC of New London County

ARC of **New London County** has a wonderful Community Life (recreation) program that is worth checking out. They plan a variety of activities each month including weekends for their members. That often have: Dances, Bowling, Special Olympics and much, much more. They are also the only program in our area that offers Transportation to most of their events for a fee. To find out how to become a member go to: www.thearcncl.org or contact Denise Tift at : dtift@thearcncl.org or call 860-889-4435 x. 110

%%

The ARC or Meriden-Wallingford offers a variety of recreational programs.

Call 203-237-9975 or visit them on the web www.arcmw.org

- Recreation program for its members. The program runs from March – October of each year with activities offered each week. Please contact Maritza Dell at 203-237-9975 ext. 377 or email us at recreation@mwsinc.org if you are interested in more information.
- They also have a program called Opportunities for Older Adults. This is a program for older adults with developmental disabilities that have chosen to retire and wish to experience activities commonly valued by senior citizens. They offer something for everyone weather you are laid back or want to be on the go.
- Individualized services is a versatile program that is designed by and for the individual based upon the individuals,needs, goals, hopes and dreams.
- Individualized Services is a versatile program that is designed by and for the individuals

%%

DDS Recreation - South Region - Pam Okerblom – (860) 859-5482

401 West Thames St. Unit 202, Norwich CT 06360-7155

Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov



124 Washington St
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: 860-342-0700
Fax: 860-342-1492
E-mail: admin@marc-ct.org

MARC: Community Resources—Leisure Program

The only Adult Leisure Program of its kind in the area which provides recreational opportunities to over 100 adults (ages 21+) in **Middlesex County from Cromwell to Old Saybrook**. Programs are offered year-round, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at various times. Programs include: Saturday Morning Fun at MARC in collaboration with Middletown Parks and Recreation, Adult Leisure Program, Guardian Angels Program (Middletown chapter of People First of CT a self-advocacy group)

- Transportation provided to some events
- Fees are low and affordable
- Financial Assistance; no one is turned away due to inability to pay
- Quarterly recreation calendars
- Day, evening and weekend programs

%%

SARAH Inc.

246 Goose Lane, Suite 101
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 458-4040

SARAH, Inc.'s Recreation and Leisure Connections provides social, leisure and athletic opportunities for people with varying abilities and needs. We help make connections with local community groups and plan activities so that people of all abilities can fully participate. These include: Special Olympics training and competition, art classes, movies, theater and more! Rec. and Leisure Connections also incorporates activities with local parks and recreation departments and commercial Recreation ventures to provide a varied program.

To learn more about the Recreation and Leisure connections:
Call 203-315-9163 or contact cmones@sarah-inc.org

KIDSTEPS is the infant and children's division of SARAH, Inc. We partner with parents and other care providers to help children learn and grow. We help families find answers to tough questions and connect families to resources that match their needs.

"Making Strides to Support, Educate and Advocate for all CHILDREN and FAMILIES."
For more information contact us at 1-888-KIDSTEP or at kidsteps@sarah-inc.org

%%

ASRC Autism Services and Resources CT

101 North Plains Industrial Rd. Harvist Park, Building 1 A, **Wallingford**, CT 06492
Phone: 203-265-7717
www.autismconnecticut.org/recreation-and-social-programs

ASRC has a wonderful facility and offers many recreation / social groups specially designed to provide individuals with autism spectrum disorders the opportunity to participate in a variety of social activities throughout their community. The offer groups for: Teens (Guy group and Girls group) Young Adults group (co-ed), Young girls group, and ASRC Supported Social Group. For details on these programs contact Emily@autismconnecticut.org
They also have Adult Game Night and many other activities and special events.

And Last but not least...

See what is happening in a town near you!

Remember to check out the many events and programs in your area. Go to your **Local Library** to sign out passes to local attractions and Museums (Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, etc. each Library has different passes and deals available). Check out the **Parks and Recreation** departments, **Senior Centers** or **Adult Education programs** in your town and your neighboring towns to see what they have to offer. Give them a call and get to know them, and let them know what programs you would like to see.

Amusement Parks are doing their part to help everyone have fun. Did you know that many amusement parks have special passes available to allow individuals who cannot stand in long lines, bypass the lines thus being able to enjoy the parks?

Lake Compounce Theme Park, Bristol CT

* Lake Compounce is an award winning park for this. They offer the SAM bracelet or stamp. Just stop by Guest Relations as you enter the park and get one. It makes park personnel aware that the individual has some special needs, so he/she and a companion may enter rides at an accelerated rate, bypassing long lines.

Lake Compounce Theme Park, has been chosen as the "Business of the Year 2012" for Autism Day at the State Capitol.

6 Flags New England, Agawam, MA

6 Flags offers 2 different special passes that allows individuals who cannot stand in lines to bypass the lines with one caregiver or friend. Stop at Guest Relations to get the passes.

- the first is the NVP for individuals with a non-visible disabilities that prevents them from being able to stand in Long Lines this includes but is not limited to individuals with Autism.
- The Second is the Mobility Pass for individuals who are physically challenged.

Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, CT

When I spoke with Quassy, they said they did not have such a program since their park was so small they never got long lines. So if a small park is what you are looking for... they may be what you are looking for.

If you would like to be added to the E-mail list for the DDS South Region Recreation Newsletter and updates of events simply let me know. Pamela.Okerblom@ct.gov or call 860-859-5482 If you know of an event or information for my next newsletter, please share it with me too.