

Activities & Programs

Parents * Teachers * Children * Youth

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children NOPBC

National Federation of the Blind

NFB Jernigan Institute



"Don't think limits; think possibilities!"

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NOPBC's goal is to provide exemplary programs, training, and resources for families and teachers that will expand opportunities and enable all blind/visually impaired children to reach their potential. We welcome you to our programs and look forward to your participation.

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National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC)

www.nopbc.org ; President@nopbc.org

The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) provides support, information, training, and advocacy to families and teachers of blind/visually impaired children. As a division of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), NOPBC enables families and blind/VI youth to connect with blind/VI adults who serve as mentors, role models, and friends. With affiliates across the country, NOPBC leads the way in advocating for educational and legislative changes that improve the lives and opportunities of blind/VI children.

NOPBC Website

www.nopbc.org

The website of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children is packed with easily searchable information that will assist parents and teachers as they raise and educate their blind/VI children. Features include parent stories, searching by age or topic, upcoming events, book recommendations, and forums where parents and teachers can connect with others across the country.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

National Parents Seminar and Conference

www.nfb.org/nfb/national_convention.asp

Every year since it was established in 1983, the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) has conducted an annual seminar for parents and teachers of blind/VI children as a part of the National Convention of the NFB. The program has grown to include four exciting days of experts, workshops, training sessions, activities for all family members, including sighted siblings, and countless opportunities to meet other families and children from around the country. The Youth Track keeps blind and sighted youth involved through workshops and social activities designed to provide a more meaningful convention experience.

State/Regional Conventions and Seminars

www.nfb.org/nfb/NOPBC_Local_Contacts.asp?SnID=1048358898

State Parents of Blind Children (POBC) chapters, in collaboration with state NFB affiliates, offer seminars, workshops, training sessions, and educational and social activities for families, children, and youth in the various states and regions.

Early Childhood Conferences

www.nfb.org/nfb/Beginnings_Blueprints.asp

The NFB Jernigan Institute in collaboration with the NOPBC periodically holds innovative Beginnings and Blueprints Early Childhood Conferences. These two-day conferences bring together families of blind children ages birth to seven, with early childhood service providers, teachers, and blind adults in order to raise expectations, provide training, and enhance the early childhood experience of blind children.

Parent Leadership Program (PLP)

In partnership with the NFB, the NOPBC invites potential parent leaders to take part in leadership training and ongoing mentoring. Opportunities have included special training sessions at the NFB convention, leadership conferences at the National Center for the Blind, and workshops and hands-on legislative training in Washington D.C. For more information about leadership training opportunities, contact President@nopbc.org.

PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS

Future Reflections Magazine

www.nfb.org/nfb/Future_Reflections.asp

Our national magazine *Future Reflections* provides resources and information on topics related to the education and development of blind children from birth through college. With its positive philosophy about blindness and practical advice and tips, the magazine is a vital source of support and encouragement to parents and teachers. Special editions are available on the Early Years, Braille, Cane Travel & Independence, Additional Disabilities, Low Vision & Blindness, Sports & Fitness, and Let's Talk about Blindness, an issue designed especially for our kids (view special issues at http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Future_Reflections.asp?SnID=2073502677). *Future Reflections* is published quarterly and distributed free of charge in print, online, and in recorded form by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults in partnership with NOPBC.

Literature and Information Packets

<http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Literature.asp?SnID=1098444533>

This literature provides information and inspiration for parents and teachers of blind children. Topics include early childhood, the blind child in the elementary classroom, IEPs, Braille literacy, independent mobility, low vision, multiple disabilities, teens, and social skills.

Books and Videos

http://secure.nfb.org/ecommerce/asp/prodtype.asp?prodtype=47&ph=&keywords=&recor=&SearchFor=&PT_ID=

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Kernel_Books.asp

<http://secure.nfb.org/ecommerce/asp/prodtype.asp?prodtype=14>

This collection of books and videos will raise expectations and provide a how-to for families and teachers as they raise and educate their blind children. Titles include *The Bridge to Braille*, *Making It Work*, *Independent Movement and Travel in Blind Children*, *Avoiding an IEP Disaster*, *White Canes for Blind Kids*, *Handbook for Itinerant and Resource Teachers*, and many more.

Straight Talk about Blindness Series

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Straight_Talk.asp?SnID=1557929868

This Web-based video series, hosted by the Executive Director of the NFB Jernigan Institute, focuses on issues surrounding blindness/visual impairment.

LITERACY PROGRAMS

Braille Reading Pals

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Braille_Reading_Pals_-_Early_Literacy_Program.asp

Braille Reading Pals is an early literacy program that encourages parents to read daily with their blind or low vision children ages 0-7 (or older if the child has developmental delays) who are not yet reading. Participants receive a print-Braille book, plush reading pal, monthly e-newsletter with tips for promoting literacy, activity sheets, Braille birthday card, and access to a network of resources for parents. This free program is sponsored by the NFB Jernigan Institute and the NOPBC.

Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Braille_Readers_Are_Leaders_Overview.asp

This literacy program, co-sponsored by NOPBC and the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille (NAPUB), features a Braille reading contest for blind children grades K-12, special recognition to schools for the blind that promote Braille literacy, and Community Service Awards for blind students who use their Braille skills to give back to others..

Slate Pals

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/NOPBC_Slate_Pals.asp?SnID=2

Slate Pals is a free pen-pal program for children aged 6-18 from around the world. Slate Pals enables children who are blind to correspond with one another in Braille. It also finds blind pen pals for sighted children who are interested in learning the Braille code.

AAF Free Books Program

http://www.actionfund.org/actionfund/Free_Braille_Books.asp?SnID=1563301384

This free books program sponsored by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults (AAF), provides popular books each month in Braille to blind children. In the past ten years over one hundred seventy titles from popular children's reading series have been distributed to thousands of blind children.

Share Braille

<http://www.nfbsharebraille.org>

NFB ShareBraille was developed to facilitate the exchange of Braille books through a community-run library. NFB ShareBraille helps connect those who are looking for materials in Braille with those who have Braille books to donate.

Writing Contests

<http://www.nfb-writers-division.org/>

Sponsored by the NFB Writers Division, this contest invites blind youth to enter original stories and poetry and compete for cash prizes and a chance for publication in the NFB Writers Division magazine, *Slate and Style*.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Leadership & Advocacy in Washington DC—LAW Program

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/LAW_Program.asp

In this four-day experience, blind and low vision middle-school students explore the inner workings of our country's government, its history, and its culture. While learning about the history of the blindness civil rights movement, how resolutions are passed, and how blindness legislation is created, students are empowered with valuable resources to enhance their transition to high school including technology, blindness skills training, and information about scholarships.

Junior Science Academy

http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Junior_Science_Academy_Mentor_Info.asp

The four-day sessions of the Junior Science Academy introduce blind and low-vision children from 8 to 12 years old to the excitement of science in real-life applications. Through hands-on instruction, field trips, and interactive activities taught by blind scientists, students learn that science can be fun as they participate in challenging experiences focused on earth and physical sciences. Parents and guardians accompanying their children to the program attend workshops provided in partnership with NOPBC.

Youth Slam

<http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Default.asp>

This bi-annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program for high school students ages 14-18 empowers blind and low vision youth through hands-on activities and challenging experiences led by blind scientists in areas such as green engineering, architecture and design, astronomy and aeronautics, chemistry, computer science and artificial intelligence, crime scene investigation (CSI), physics, and robotics. The event includes social and recreation opportunities.

National Center for Blind Youth in Science

<http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/default.asp?SnID=1498703842>

This national clearinghouse provides resources, information, and expertise for blind youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and careers. Specific information is available for biology, chemistry, physics, geometry, etc. Partners include the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautic Space Administration (NASA), and other leading organizations.

National Association of Blind Students (NABS)

<http://www.nfb.org/nfb/NABS.asp>

The National Association of Blind Students provides support, information, and encouragement to blind/VI high school and college students. NABS leads the way in offering resources for such issues as national testing, accessible textbooks and materials, and successful techniques for lab and field assignments.

Scholarship Program

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/scholarship_program.asp

Each year the National Federation of the Blind presents a broad array of scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars. To be eligible, students must be legally blind, reside in the US or Puerto Rico, be pursuing or planning to pursue full-time study in a degree program at a US institution of higher learning, and participate in all scholarship activities at the NFB Convention. High school seniors and those already in college or graduate school may apply.

Free White Cane Program

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Free_Cane_Program.asp

The white cane is a useful tool for navigating the environment with confidence, independence, and safety. Fill out an application to receive a free cane in a length from 25" to 63".

IEP & ADVOCACY

Pop-Up IEP

<http://www.unco.edu/ncssd/bvilEP/index.shtml>

The Pop-Up IEP provides assistance in getting appropriate services written into a child's IEP. Focusing on typical problem areas, the Pop-UP IEP provides effective responses, along with information on what the laws say about educating children with disabilities. A collaborative effort between the National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities and the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, the Pop-Up IEP can assist in getting IEP team meetings moving again in a more positive direction.

Education Advocacy

For blindness-related IEP help, contact President@NOPBC.org. For assistance with civil rights violations contact Charlie Brown at 410-659-9314 X 2206 or cbrown@nfb.org.

NETWORKING & MENTORING

Blindkid & Other Listservs

http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/blindkid_nfbnet.org

http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nabs-l_nfbnet.org

<http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo>

Want to talk about your blind kid with other parents? Would you like tips from knowledgeable blind adults? Ask questions, get and give advice, vent frustrations, brag about your kid, share resources, and make new friends on this NOPBC sponsored listserv. To subscribe, visit the link above and fill out the form provided on the page. Other lists that might be of interest to you and your child include blind students, blind math, music, art education, blind journalists, blind teachers, blind cooks, blind wheelchair users, guide dog users, crafters and artists, performing artists, and various state parent lists.

Blindness 411

Blindness 411 was created by the National Federation of the Blind to give blind teens a place to meet other teens and learn about resources for school, home, and community. Facebook members can go to groups, search for our group name—Blindness 411, and request access. Questions? Contact Rosy Carranza at 410- 659-9314, ext. 2283 or at rcarranza@nfb.org.

NFB-LINK

<http://www.nfbblink.org/>

Based on the NFB's can-do, positive attitude about blindness, emphasizing high expectations, independence, and personal achievement, NFB-LINK provides mentoring relationships for individuals who would like resources and guidance on a variety of blindness topics. For more information, contact Jessica Bachicha at 410-659-9314 X. 2529 or jbachicha@nfb.org.

Where the Blind Work

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Blind_Work.asp?SnID=1241105460

What kind of work are blind people doing? How do they do it? Read the personal accounts of blind adults engaged in various types of employment including tips on how to enter the field and what positive influences helped them achieve their goal.

TECHNOLOGY

International Braille and Technology Center

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Technology_Center.asp?SnID=1578233145

This state-of-the-art facility is a comprehensive demonstration, evaluation, and training center for nearly all the tactile and speech technology available today. Located at NFB headquarters in Baltimore, the IBTC consults with individuals, educators, and employers; offers a technology answer line with objective information (410-659-9314 opt. 5); and blogs about the latest technologies.

NFB-Newsline®

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Newspapers_by_Phone.asp

Lifetime learning and ready access to current information is part of what makes a good citizen, a successful student and employee, and a valuable participant in community life. NFB-Newsline is a free service which provides newspapers and magazines via telephone or email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Offering over 300 newspapers, including five Spanish-language papers, and many magazines, such as *Popular Science* and the *Smithsonian*, NFB-Newsline enables blind children to do their own current events other assignments independently.