

## **Please Read Before You Register – Registration Opens on April 16 at 9am ET!**

We feel the excitement building as April 16 approaches and families can finally register for the 2018 NDSC Annual Convention. We also know there is excitement building to make hotel reservations. As was the case last year, convention registration is required before families can reserve their rooms. ***We strongly recommend reading over the following information NOW, so that on April 16<sup>th</sup> you are informed and prepared to complete your family's registration.***

First - do you have your username (account holder email) and password handy from last year to login into the registration system? If you are a first-time attendee, you'll need to create an account before you get started. You might also want to watch this [online tutorial](#) about the registration process.

Next - Once you are logged into the system, you can begin registering each member of your family for whichever program they are attending. Remember you will have to "add a person" for **EACH** person you are registering. The system has the names of each person you registered in the past stored in the drop down box for "add a person". If their name isn't there you will have to add them as a new attendee.

It's best to start with anyone who is attending the general convention. This means anyone in your immediate family wanting to attend workshops, receptions, sharing sessions, exhibitors and the film festival too! The system will track the number of family members attending the general convention and automatically select a family registration vs. individual. After you get each person registered for the general convention, you'll want to consider selecting a [pre-conference session](#) to attend. These sessions are an additional fee and have to be pre-selected when you register. Pre-conferences are amazing opportunities to dive deeper into one topic presented by world-renowned experts.

Once you have all of the general convention attendees registered and pre-cons selected you can move on to the other conferences: Youth & Adults, Brothers & Sisters and Kids' Camp.

The [Youth & Adults Conference](#) is for self-advocates with Down syndrome, ages 15 and up. In order to provide appropriate support for those attending, there are a number of questions that need to be answered during registration. **You will also be asked to select your self-advocate's programming choice for Sunday.** Sunday is the always-popular talent show; however, there are [specialized workshops](#) offered during that time for those who prefer not to watch the show or participate in it. We strongly recommend discussing these choices with your self-advocate **before** you register. [Click here](#) for the list of questions asked during registration. If your self-advocate is bringing a volunteer to support them throughout the conference weekend, make sure that the [volunteer registers](#) as a 3-day Y&A volunteer and indicates the self-advocate they are supporting.

The [Brothers & Sisters Conference](#) is for rising 4th grade thru 12th grade siblings. The conference is led by college-aged siblings and provides a variety of activities and learning throughout the weekend. Programming for this conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel. Siblings will go off-site on Sunday to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in downtown Dallas. **You'll need to know your child's t-shirt size when registering as well.**

Kids' Camp was created for children 6 months to 11 years without DS and up to 14 years with DS. It is broken into 5 separate sessions. You must select and register for each session you want for each child. Some families like to review the [workshop schedule](#) prior to selecting Kids' Camp sessions (keep in mind, this schedule is subject to change). We recommend reviewing the [Kids' Camp FAQ's](#) and other information about this program [here](#) before you register. **You'll also need to provide your child's t-shirt size when registering.**

Now that you have your whole family registered for one conference or another. You'll want to consider some the following **convention options**. **Keep in mind, once you complete your convention registration and pay, you cannot go back in later to add any options.** So it is best to review each of these options below before you register so you know which options are best for your family.

- **Compendium Format** - Each registration (one per family) receives a complimentary FLASH DRIVE compendium. If you prefer a paper copy you must select that in the options section. Paper copies and extra copies of either format are \$20. These will be sold on-site for \$25 while supplies last. It's best to get them now.
- **Star Studded Night** - This is our popular Saturday evening event. Tickets will NOT be sold on-site and gluten-free and vegetarian can be selected at registration.
- **Considering the Meal Plan?** This was added upon request of our attendees to offer a fast, convenient option to during the crazy convention weekend. The meal plan costs \$72 per person and offers 4 meals. [Click here](#) for full menus and more details on how it works. Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available. Make the appropriate selection during registration.
- **Hall of Stars** – Help the NDSC sparkle in Dallas by purchasing one or more stars to adorn the hall of stars in the main meeting space. Stars are available until June 1st and can be purchased both within your convention registration or on the NDSC website.
- **Conference Recordings** – Online access to the recordings is complimentary with each registration; other formats can be purchased. [Click here](#) for more information about the recording options before you register.
- **Convention T-shirt** - \$15 in advance; \$18 on-site (limited availability)
- **Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish** - Pre-registration required for headsets.

Finally, we know emergencies happen, family members get sick, or plans may change, and you may need to cancel your registration. The NDSC cancellation policy is as follows:

- The NDSC staff will honor all cancellation requests received by **June 22, 2018**.
- Registration fees, dinner and meal plan tickets, extra compendiums, t-shirts and conference recording upgrades are non-refundable after June 22, 2018. No refunds will be processed after this date.
- There is a \$50 processing fee deducted from every refund request.
- **Once you register and pay for the convention any changes can only be made by NDSC staff.**

Thank you for your interest in our giant family reunion, we look forward to seeing you in July!