

2th  Friends for LifeTM Orlando 2019

July 16-21, 2019

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort

Orlando, Florida

*Social Story for transitions at Friends for Life
(elementary edition)*

Conference Registration

- You and your family will go to the South Registration area to register for the conference.
- You may stand in line while you wait to meet with a friendly staff member who will help you get registered.
- There will be lots of new friends standing around the registration area and it might be a bit noisy.
- Your parents will be given several important items at registration like a program of events, nametags on necklaces, conference t-shirts, and wrist bands.



Armbands and Nametags

- When your parents register for the conference, they will help you with an armband.
- The green band means that you have diabetes.
- The orange band means that you don't have diabetes.
- The yellow band means that you eat Gluten Free meals.
- The arm band attaches with a little sticker. It needs to be a little tight on your wrist so that it won't fall off. It might feel funny but it is just made of really strong paper.
- You will also be given a nametag on a necklace. It is really important to wear your nametag so that people know that you are with FFL.
 - Your parents will put their phone number on the back of the nametag. You can also decorate the nametag with fun stickers!



Wednesday

- On Wednesday, we begin our pre-conference sessions. You will go to a big room for kids that are your same age.
- Some of the kids will have diabetes (green bands). Some of the kids won't have diabetes (orange bands).
- You will meet friendly staff members at your conference room. Some of them will have on red shirts (medical staff). Some of them will have on blue shirts (age group staff). Some of them will have on gray shirts (program leaders). They are all very nice and can't wait to be your friend!
- Your staff may divide you into smaller groups for fun activities.
- This big meeting room sometimes gets loud when kids are running and having fun.



Wednesday night

- On Wednesday night, the Exhibit hall opens.
- This is one of the most favorite activities of kids that attend FFL!
- There will be a big crowd outside of the doors as we count down to the doors opening. It will be very noisy as people wait for the hall to open.
- Some people will run though the doors when they open because they are so excited. Make sure to stay with your family and hold on tight!
- Once you are inside the hall, there is a station to treat low blood sugar and a cozy place to sit if you need a break.



Exhibit Hall

- The Exhibit Hall is a VERY big open room
- There are lots of bright lights and it can be kind of noisy
- There are many people moving around the room looking at fun booths
- Some booths have activities for you to do! Some have snacks! Some have items for you to purchase! Some have free things for you to take home. Make sure to only take 1 so you can save things for other people.
- It's always nice to say thank you to the people working the booths. We are glad they joined us at FFL!



If you need help.....

- If you need help, look for a staff member in a black shirt.
- These staff members are in all of the hallways and in many of the meeting areas.
- Someone in a black shirt can help you if you are lost or if you are confused.
- Their name tags have a ribbon that says "STAFF"



Meals

- Meals are served buffet style
- There are plates at the end of a long table
- Each food item has a green card with a carbohydrate count and serving size
- If you are a yellow band and eat gluten free, there is a separate buffet for you
- Sometimes we have to wait in line to get our food. It's fun to talk to other friends for life in line while we are waiting.
- Once you get your food, you go into a big ballroom to eat. There will be tables set and you just pick a place to eat. No seat assignments.
- Once you finish your food, someone will come by and take your plate. Don't forget about dessert!



- Mealtimes look like similar to this picture.
- Meals can be somewhat loud.
- The room is crowded.
- Sometimes it's easier to pick a table in the front of the room so that people aren't walking by you as much as they try to find a table.
- Meals are times to make new friends. New friends will eat with you at your table and you will talk as you eat.
- The food is delicious and there is a lot of food to choose from.
- There will be a slide show playing on big screens during mealtime. It's neat to see pictures of people at FFL.



Thursday

- Thursday is a day full of fun sessions with other kids in your age group. Staff will be with you all day today helping you have fun!
- Your parents will drop you off at your conference room and then come back for you once your session is over.
- You will do fun activities with your staff members and new friends for life.
- You may do some activities in other rooms. When you go to other rooms for fun, please be quiet in the hallways! Parents are in their sessions and need to listen to their speakers.
- You will also get a chance to go back to the Exhibit Hall today with your family. Remember to say thank you to the sponsors and pick up some fun, new things!
- There will be snack breaks and meals that we will share together with our new Friends for Life.



Thursday night banquet

- Thursday night is the 20th Anniversary Banquet. We will eat dinner together in one really big room.
- When you enter the room, it will be dark. There will be table decorations and it will look magical. Make sure to stay with your family as you enter the room.
- You will pick a table for dinner. There are no assigned seats. You will eat with other friends for life.
- Dinner is a buffet. You will go to the buffet with your family and come back to your table.
- During the dinner, there will be some speeches. It's important to listen and pay attention. We are celebrating 20 years of Friends for Life. This is a very special event.



Music and Dancing

- After dinner and after the speeches, there will be some music and dancing.
- There will be music from DJ Miles. There are flashing lights and lots of loud sounds.
- Everyone loves to dance and the dancefloor can get crowded.
- You don't have to stay for the dancing but it sure is a fun activity.
- Some people like to go outside to the hallway where it is more quiet and cool. You can always take a break and then come back if it is too loud for you.
- Make sure that you stay with your family or a friend because the dancefloor is crowded.



Sports Central

- Sports Central is a fun room located near the exhibit hall
- Sports Central staff members are excited to help you play lots of active games like volleyball, obstacle courses, and running games
- Sports Central is a great place to get your sillies out and get some exercise!
- Lots of friends for life say that this is one of their favorite activities
- This room may be noisy as people are laughing and joking and having fun with movement
- Sports Central is a great place to run and have movement and motion.



Friday

- On Friday, you will go back to your conference room for more fun sessions with your age group and your staff leaders.
- Friday will be very much like Thursday. You will do different activities during the day. Some will be in your main room, some will be in other rooms.
- Your parents will drop you off and pick you back up for snacks and lunch.
- You will have Exercise Time with Harold! Watch out! He will make you move and laugh and exercise. Harold will teach you about making your body move in the right direction.



Friday night

- On Friday night, Dexcom sponsors a family movie night.
- There will be popcorn and drinks and we will be in a big ballroom.
- You will get a pillow from the movie room and you will be able to lay down on the ground with your friends.
- Your parents will be in the room watching the movie, too. There will be lots of people here and it might be crowded.
- This is a time to be quiet and watch the movie.
- This is a fun way to end our week at FFL.
- Dexcom usually has a fun prize like a cozy blanket to give away. Please make sure to say thank you to the people from Dexcom.



Saturday

- On Saturday, you have some free time to go to the pool and have fun with your new friends for life.
- Everyone usually goes to the big pool on Saturday. Coronado Springs will have music and activities at the pool.
- Some people go to the Disney parks on Saturday.
- Some people like to spend the day at Sports Central.
- During the day, Saturday is a relaxed day without a lot on the schedule. Make it a fun day!



Saturday night

- On Saturday night, we have fun social events with our Friends for Life. There is a Family Fun Night that has a beach party theme.
- There is also a Tween Social that has a safari party theme and a Teen dance that has a black light party theme. These events will be taking place at the same time as the Family Fun Night.
- The family fun night is very loud and active. There will be dancing and music and games. There will be a lot of people moving around during the event.
- You may want to find a table at the side of the room so that you can check it out before joining the fun.
- If you need to take a break, ask your family to take you for a walk in one of the cool hallways. You can come back to the party at a later time.



Farewell Breakfast

- On Sunday morning, it's time to say goodbye to our Friends for Life.
- We will meet at breakfast to share hugs and smiles. We will laugh about our fun week together.
- The farewell breakfast is a fun place to take pictures and exchange phone numbers and emails with your new friends so that you can keep in touch during the year.
- There are special guests that join us for this farewell breakfast. These Disney characters will only be at the breakfast for a short time. You may have to wait in line for your turn to say hello and have your picture taken.



For help during the conference....

- Type AU-SOME: Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Fiesta 4. 10:45-12:00
- Sensory friendly bags will be available at the Conference Registration desk. Please return the bag to the desk when you are finished using it for the day.
- Meet with your age group program leaders to explain any difficulty with transitions.
- Create a meeting spot that can be used throughout the conference in case you become separated from your group.
- Look for a CWD staff member wearing a black shirt for immediate assistance.

