



## Annual Banquet and Dance Registration due today!

### Director's Corner - Time to quit trying to cure Autism

Folks have been talking about autism and other kinds of neurodivergence like they're some big problem to solve. Autism is not a disease, but everyday we hear words like "epidemic," stories about parents struggling, and folks chasing after a cure like it's the holy grail. But that whole way of thinking it not just off-base—it's harmful. Maybe it's time we quit wringing our hands and start seeing neurodiversity for what it really is: something worth celebrating.

The words we use say a lot. We talk about "treating" autism like it's the flu. We call things "symptoms," like there's something wrong that needs fixing. But autism isn't a sickness—it's just a different way of seeing the world. A different way of thinking, learning, and connecting. Sure, like all of human diversity it comes with its own set of challenges, but it also brings some mighty fine strengths. The whole idea of "curing" autism is where things really go sideways. It tells people with autism that they're broken, like they need fixing before they can be accepted. Imagine growing up hearing that your very being is something folks want to change. Instead of trying to cure autism, we ought to be building a world that welcomes and supports all kinds of minds. Parents of children with autism feel pain and guilt when we use words like curing, treating, or epidemics. This is never right. We need to choose words carefully- especially those in the media. Read on...

**ANNUAL  
BANQUET &  
DANCE**  
**TUESDAY  
Oct 21 | 2025**  
**SANCTUARY EVENTS CENTER**  
670 4TH AVE N • FARGO

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**CHECK-IN & BUFFET DINNER**  
5:30PM  
**PROGRAM**  
6:00PM-7:00PM  
**DANCE**  
7:00PM-8:00PM

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**DINNER FEATURES**  
Garden Salad  
Artisan Rolls  
Maple BBQ Chicken  
Whipped Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots

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**COSTUMES OPTIONAL** 

No registration will be accepted  
after October 3rd

Can't attend but still want to support  
The Arc of Cass County?  
Donate online at [arccassnd.org](http://arccassnd.org)  
Contributions may be used as matching  
funds to support our mission.

## Did you know about?

Learn about services and organizations in our community we think you should know about!

**Interview with Damien Caron**  
Recreation Supervisor  
Fargo Park District

**What Programs do you have?**  
Adult Adaptive Programs:

Bowling: Thursdays, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 26<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 4pm at West Acres Bowl. This program is \$3/day for 3 games of bowling. We offer league bowling as well as recreational bowling to make this program a fun social environment.

Coed Softball League: June - August at Longfellow Park. This is a softball league where teams are formed through different adaptive agencies and compete every Tuesday night over the summer. This program is \$300/team.

Youth Adaptive Programs:

Camp-A-Day: June - July from 9am - 2pm at Rheault Farms. This is a summer recreational camp for kids to enjoy the



summer in a safe environment while getting social interaction. This program is \$105 per month.

**Sports Sampler:** This is a new adaptive program coming this winter to the Fargo Park District. It is for kids ages K-8 with physical or mental disabilities to sample a number of different sports in a safe environment. We will be having a session in January as well as one in February. This program is \$70 per session.

**Tae Kwon Do:** This program has many sessions year-round and is run at Red River Tae Kwon Do. It is from 6:45p-7:30p and costs \$100 per session.

**Do I need to be a resident of Fargo to participate?**

You do not need to be a resident of Fargo to sign up for these programs.

**If I don't want to attend alone can a family member or staff member attend with me?**

We do allow/encourage family/staff members to attend these programs as well as we find it makes the participants more comfortable.

**How do I register?**

Register [here](#).

**Fargo Parks Facebook**

**Fargo Parks Instagram**

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**West Fargo Parks** also has a weekly adaptative recreation program Activities include sports, creative arts, games, and social events—all designed to promote fun, fitness, and connection in a supportive environment.

Fee: FREE | Age: 18+ | Day: Every Tuesday from 1:30 – 2:30p | Location: Rustad Recreation Center

[wfparks.org/adaptive-adventures/](http://wfparks.org/adaptive-adventures/)

## Meet Justin!

Have you seen Justin? He is our Brand Ambassador. You can see him on our social media, at our events, in our stores greeting customers, on billboards, and more! He has participated in our programs more than 10 years and is an outgoing self-advocate, which is why we hired him to be the face of The Arc! If you see him, say hello!



## North Dakota IDEA Advisory Committee Listening Tour

*We want to hear the needs in special education to advise the North Dakota*

VIRTUAL EVENT  
ONLY VIA TEAMS!





the North Dakota  
Department of  
Public Instruction  
Office of Specially  
Designed  
Instruction

Scan QR code to  
register for this  
event

October 28, 2025

5:30 PM



WHO SHOULD ATTEND: SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS, DIRECTORS, STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITIES AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



## Good Reads

### North Dakota News

- HHS assures North Dakotans mandatory entitlement programs will continue during federal government shutdown
- Target adds self-serve checkouts for customers' with disabilities
- Rural Health Listening Sessions Oct 3rd, Oct 7th, and Oct 9th

### US Disability News

- The Aging And Disability Crisis We Can't Afford To Ignore
- Milestone Achievement for Advocacy Community FASD Respect Act language Passes Congress
- Social media for people with disabilities: Self-Advocacy Wins (Enable: The Disability Podcast)

Visit our Website



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