



CONNECTION OF FRIENDS OPEN HOUSE

Looking for Structured Programming?

Whether you are looking for programming to help fill hours after school or have a student that is completing their transition program, Connection of Friends can help meet your needs! Registration for Spring Session opens January 11th!

And it is not too early to starting planning for summer! Registration opens April 5th!

Who We Are

Open since October 2012, Connection of Friends is a community-based organization which provides a place for teens, age 16 and older, and adults with special needs to gather socially with an emphasis on life skill, volunteer and fitness activities on a daily basis and Saturday evenings.

What We Offer

Participants sign up for 13-week sessions and select specific days and time options.

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

Noon-6:00 pm

Noon-3:00 pm

3:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday & Friday

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Dinner & Dancing with Friends

Monday 3:00-6:00 pm

Saturday Night Socials

6:00-9:00 pm

Date

Monday, January 21st

Time & Location

10:00-2:00 pm

1771 S. Wiesbrook Road, Wheaton
(COF is not affiliated with Hope
Presbyterian Church)

Upon arrival, call 630-260-0922.

For More Information

Jamie Hager Lee, Program Director
jhager @connectionoffriends.org
www.connectionoffriends.org

Spring Session 2019

February 25-May 25, 2019

Registration Opens: January 11th

Registration Closes: January 21st

(Extension available for new families
pending availability)

Download Profile forms at:
www.connectionoffriends.org

Summer Session 2019

May 27-August 24, 2019

Registration Opens: April 5th

Registration Closes: April 15th

Download Profile forms at:
www.connectionoffriends.org

2019-2020 Session Schedule



Connection of Friends offers 13-week sessions that run consecutively. While we conduct new participant in-takes throughout the year, it is important to note the following dates if you are interested in a specific session.

Please visit www.connectionoffriends.org to download Participant Profile Forms or contact (630) 260-0922 for more information.

Spring Session 2019

February 25-May 25, 2019

January 11th: Registration opens for new participants

January 21st: Registration Closes

February 1st : LAST DAY for Spring Session in-takes

Summer Session 2019

May 27-August 24, 2019

April 5th : Registration opens for new participants

April 15th: Registration Closes

April 26th: LAST DAY for Summer Session in-takes

Fall Session 2019

August 26-November 23, 2019

July 5th: Registration opens for new participants

July 15th: Registration Closes

August 2nd: LAST DAY for Fall Session in-takes

Winter Session 2019-2020

November 25-February 22, 2020

October 4th : Registration opens for new participants

October 14th: Registration Closes

November 1st: LAST DAY for Winter Session in-takes

Individual schedules can be found on our website, (both written and visual versions), at www.connectionoffriends.org.

Here are some programming highlights for this winter!



DINNER & DANCING WITH FRIENDS

- MEATLOAF & MASHED POTATOES
- LASAGNA SOUP
- CHICKEN QUESADILLAS
- PIZZA CASSEROLE
- CHILI & CORN BREAD
- BAKED CHEESE OMELET
- LASAGNA PRIMAVERA
- BAKED CHEESE OMELET
- WAGON WHEEL PASTA BAKE
- BAKED FRENCH TOAST
- LASAGNA PRIMAVERA
- GROUND BEEF FAJITAS

PRODUCT CREATION

- BARKLICIOUS DOG BISCUIT
- TREE BRANCH ORNAMENTS
- WICKEDLY GOOD CANDLES

WEEK-DAY PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS WINTER SESSION 2018-2019

- PROGRAMMING AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM (TUESDAY AND FRIDAY)
- PROGRAMMING AT THE GLEN ELLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY (FRIDAY)
- YEAR OF SERVICE PROJECT—GOT A MITTEN? MITTEN DRIVE
- COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING (TUESDAY AND FRIDAY)

ACTIVITY SERIES

- WINTER HOLIDAYS SERIES—THIS WEEK IN HISTORY SERIES
- FRIENDSHIP SERIES—WACKY HOLIDAYS SERIES—FIFTY NIFTY STATES SERIES
- WHO AM I SERIES—CONDUCTING WITH TERRY—DECADES
- ART AROUND THE WORLD SERIES—SELF-CARE SERIES

WINTER SESSION SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL THEMES

- GOT A MITTEN?—GINGERBREAD LADS & LASSIES—UGLY SWEATER PARTY
- PAINTING & HOT CHOCOLATE—TOP CHEF—HOPPIN POPPIN POPCORN
- DENIM & DIAMONDS WINTERFEST—ME & OUR SHADOWS
- NATIONAL PIZZA DAY—X'S AND O'S VALENTINE'S DAY—FIRE & ICE



What Makes COF Unique?

Socialization

All our programming is centered on socialization and finding ways to encourage and support our participants as they develop relationships with one another. Activities are supported visually and scripts are available to aide in the development of conversation skills.

Supports

We offer a wide variety of individualized supports, (both written and visual), to help our participants remain engaged and organized. Supports include schedules, sequential "steps, (recipes, job tasks), as well as behavior supports, (Expected/Unexpected).

Ratios

We operate primarily as a 3:1 organization but do offer more individualized, assigned support when needed. Our 3 hour section size remains small, (capping at either 4, 6 or 9 participants depending on which day), allowing all our participants to benefit.

After School Programming

While typical peers have the opportunity to join a variety of after school clubs and activities, these options are limited for special needs students. Connection of Friends offers programming beginning at 3:00 pm Monday., Wednesday and Thursday.

Post Transition Programming

Once transition is completed, Connection of Friends reinforces the many skills acquired including life skills, cooking skills, technology skills, volunteering skills as well as navigating within the community.

Dinner & Dancing with Friends

Held on Monday from 3-6:00 pm, Dinner & Dancing focuses on the preparation and eating of an evening meal. Participants prepare dinner and continue to work on life skill activities including setting the table, manners, table conversation and cleaning up. Past dinners have included Shepherd's Pie, Lasagna Primavera and Pizza Casserole.

Saturday Night Programming

Connection of Friends offers theme based Saturday Night Socials from 6:00-9:00 pm every Saturday night which includes dinner and dessert!

Constant Communication

Connection of Friends is committed to supporting our participants so they can successfully navigate activities offered during programming. Staff speaks to families regularly to not only share successes, but to actively problem solve any challenges seen during programming.



DINNER & DANCING WITH FRIENDS

Does your son or daughter love to cook?
Are you looking to introduce new recipes?
Consider joining us every Monday for Dinner & Dancing with Friends!



Dinner & Dancing with Friends focuses on:

- The preparation and eating of an evening meal;
- Working on life skills including setting the table, manners, table conversation and cleaning up.

Dinner and Dancing is an excellent opportunity for participants to improve kitchen skills as well as learn how to navigate a recipe with support provided by COF staff. Each participant is provided either a written or visual recipe of the meal being prepared and is assigned cooking jobs upon arrival. As dinner is cooking, other activities include product creation, group activities and art. The evening concludes with dancing and a recipe review completed and emailed by each participant.

Dinner & Dancing Details

- Held every Monday from 3:00-6:00 pm
- Pre-determined menu
- Menu is listed on the registration form
- Flat fee—dinner and dessert included
- Small ratio—only 4 participants each Monday



Gluten-free or other dietary considerations not available.

For more information, please visit our website at
www.connectionoffriends.org or call 630/260-0922.

After School Programming



Looking for fun and structured programming **AFTER** school?
Connection of Friends has something for you!

WEEK-DAY PROGRAMMING TIMES

-MONDAY-
3:00-6:00 PM (DINNER & DANCING)

-WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-
3:00-6:00 PM

DINNER & DANCING WITH FRIENDS—MONDAYS FROM 3:00-6:00 PM

Dinner & Dancing with Friends focuses on the preparation and eating of an evening meal. Participants not only prepare dinner, but continue to work on a variety of life skill activities including setting the table, manners, table conversation and cleaning up.

OTHER WEEK DAY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Activity Series
Technology & Science
Fitness and Nutrition
Music
Art, Gardening and Yoga—taught by Program Volunteers
Product Creation for Fundraisers

And don't forget about Saturday Nights!

Our Saturday Night Socials are held from 6:00-9:00 pm which allows parents and guardians a much deserved night out while participants enjoy dinner and a themed based party!

FOCUS ON SOCIALIZATION

All our activities are adapted and supported visually so everyone is successful. We are committed to encouraging and supporting our participants as they develop new conversation skills by providing visual scripts, topics and questions.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Visit our website at www.connectionoffriends.org to download Participant Forms. Once filled out and returned, you will be contacted by Jamie Hager Lee, Program Director, to schedule an intake meeting.



Post-Transition Programming

Looking for fun and structured programming Post Transition?
Connection of Friends has something for you!

WEEK-DAY PROGRAMMING TIMES

-MONDAY-
NOON-3:00 PM
3:00-6:00 PM (DINNER & DANCING)

-TUESDAY & FRIDAY
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

-WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-
NOON-6:00 PM
NOON-3:00 PM
3:00-6:00 PM

DINNER & DANCING WITH FRIENDS—MONDAYS FROM 3:00-6:00 PM

Dinner & Dancing with Friends focuses on the preparation and eating of an evening meal. Participants not only prepare dinner, but continue to work on a variety of life skill activities including setting the table, manners, table conversation and cleaning up.

OTHER WEEK DAY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Community Volunteering—
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Humanitarian Service Project &
DuPage Care Center
Community Lunches & Desserts
Community Outings—Morton Arboretum and Glen Ellyn Public Library
Activity Series
Technology & Science
Fitness and Nutrition
Music
Art, Gardening and Yoga—taught by Program Volunteers
Product Creation for Fundraisers

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