

Dreams Take Flight

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To: All ACH Clinics and Calgary Pediatricians
From: Dr. Neil Cooper & Dr. Jody Patrick
Date: May 18, 2023
Subject: **28th Air Canada Dreams Take Flight**
Trip To Universal Studios in California Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Over the last 30 years, Dreams Take Flight, with the help of Air Canada, and multiple sponsors and volunteers have taken more than 3700 physically, mentally and socially challenged children on an exciting, all expenses paid, one day trip to Disneyland. We leave early in the morning and return late that night. The children are showered with attention and gifts and for one day, take a break from the challenges they endure daily. Children are nominated by many agencies in Calgary and the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Calgary Pediatricians supply the largest group – more than 1100 children from our patient population!

It is time once again to select the children for "Dreams Take Flight". This year, as we ramp up following the pandemic, we are taking 120 children to Universal Studios California.

We are looking for about 28 children from our patient population to join the group on this exciting day.

Please help by sending names of up to 4 possible children, from your clinic population, who meet the following criteria:

- 10 to 12 years old
- Because we were not able to run the flights the last 3 years, we are focusing on the older children
- Please consider developmental age as well. Developmentally delayed 10 year olds may not be appropriate.
- Canadian citizen (Note: this is a **strict** criteria because of the USA security requirements)
- Has never been to a Major US theme park.
- Chronic medical problem. (Siblings of those with chronic medical problems may also be nominated.)
- Financially underprivileged.
- Not selected for previous trips or other special events through the hospital.
- Please carefully consider those children with behavior problems as they can be (and have been) very disruptive.
- **Children must be able to verbally communicate with strangers. How would the child tell us that he is having pain and where? How will the child tell us what she wants to eat? Hearing-impaired children who sign standard sign language are OK, as they will be placed in a group with leaders who can sign.**

Nomination instructions

1. We would like the ACH Clinic to contact the families with the initial call to:
 - a. Briefly tell them about Dreams Take Flight
"I would like to nominate your child for a program that takes children on a one day, all expenses paid trip to California in November."
 - b. Get their permission to nominate them
 - c. Confirm they are Canadian citizens
 - d. Confirm they have not been to a Major US Theme park
2. Please use the secure on-line nomination form to give us the contact information for the children.
 - a. Go to: <http://secure.dreamsinfo.ca>
 - b. Click on "Nominate a Child"
 - c. Password: DreamsNom2023!@
 - d. Fill out the on-line form and click on "submit" at the bottom.
 - e. If you have troubles, please contact Lora Neufeld to make other arrangements for nominations.

Selection Process – Please get your nominations in early as we are notifying families starting in June.

Families are called in the order the clinic nominations are received. The earlier you get your nominations in, the more likely multiple children from your clinic will be selected. Children who do not qualify, based on the above criteria, are not contacted. We often will select a child who has been nominated in other years over children higher on the list. To break ties, we tend to select the children who are close to their last year of eligibility over the younger children. Please keep a copy of your lists each year so that the children who are not selected can be nominated again next year.

If you have any questions about your nominations or whom you have nominated in the past please contact:

Lora Neufeld at (403) 869 7226 (cell), lora.n.neufeld@gmail.com

Drs. Neil Cooper, Jody Patrick (Dreams Take Flight Medical Lead) and Lora Neufeld