**NMSBVI Summer Programs - 2017**

**Who?**

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) will again be running a series of summer camps around the state for academic students with visual impairments. Eligible students will have a diagnosed (educational) visual impairment, be enrolled in a participating New Mexico school district during the 2016-17 school year, be a minimum of 6 years of age, be capable of managing their behaviors while at the camp, and not require medications during the hours of the camp with the exception of the Alamogordo camp. (We will have a nurse during the day for the Alamogordo camp.)

**What?**

Over the past few summers, NMSBVI has run a series of four-day long camps in Gallup, Farmington, Santa Fe, Clovis, Las Cruces, Carlsbad, Roswell, and Albuquerque. NMSBVI collaborated with local districts and Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and Orientation & Mobility Specialists (O&Ms) to secure a site in the local community, identify students and address VI specific skills that can be challenging to teach during the school year. NMSBVI will again collaborate with local districts, TVIs and O&Ms this summer to help meet the needs of New Mexico students with visual impairments.

**When?**

Plans are being made with local districts to set up camps this summer. The schedule for this summer is:

May 27th – 31st: O&M trip

Week of June 5th: Gallup

Week of June 12th: Santa Fe

Week of June 19th: Artesia

Week of June 26th: no camps

Week of July 3rd: Albuquerque

Week of July 10th: Alamogordo (runs 2 weeks)

July 21st – 25th: out of state fun trip (likely Texas this year)

The camps, regardless of where in the state they are, will run Mondays-Thursdays. The daily hours vary from district to district. Several districts make use of the same facility – generally a school building – as their Extended School Year (ESY) program that determines both the week of the camp and the daily hours for the camp. The Alamogordo camp will be the only one that students stay at overnight.

**Where?**

NMSBVI has tentative sites for 2017 in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Gallup and Artesia. An additional camp is being run in Alamogordo, which will be residential.

**Why?**

Students with visual impairments need to master all of the standard core curriculum concepts as their peers but also have to master an extensive set of skills that comprise what is commonly referred to as the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). Many students with visual impairments require adaptations and VI specific skills to fully benefit from standard classes such as math and science. NMSBVI’s summer camps place an emphasis on math and science – two of the most difficult to modify academic classes – and VI specific technology, which enables students to better access all of the standard academic classes. NMSBVI also provides instruction in ECC areas such as Independent Living Skills (ILS), O&M and braille. The camps supplement instruction that students with visual impairments receive from TVIs and O&Ms during the school year. Due to the competing demands of academic and VI specific skills it can be difficult for a TVI or O&M to fit it all in during the school year. The NMSBVI summer camps can help.

**As an added bonus:**

NMSBVI is in the planning stages of a fun and exciting trip to the beach -- scheduled for July 21st-24th. To be eligible for the trip, students must:

* Successfully participate in one of the camps that NMSBVI will hold around the state
* Have the maturity necessary to be away from home for four days
* Be able to manage their behaviors while away from home for four days
* Be cleared to attend by NMSBVI’s Health Services

For more information, please contact:

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