

**NOPBC**

**National Organization of Parents of Blind Children**

*A division of the National Federation of the Blind*

*Presents*



# **Crafting Your Diamond:**

*The 4Cs of Bringing Up Blind Children*

**The 2015 National Conference for Parents and Teachers**

**At the Diamond Anniversary National Convention of the  
National Federation of the Blind**

**July 5 – 10, 2015**

**Rosen Centre Hotel**

**Orlando, FL**

Sincere thanks to the



CHILDREN'S FUND

for their support of this conference

# WELCOME TO THE 2015 NOPBC CONFERENCE!

## *\* Insider Information \**

*The NFB National Convention is a complicated week of events. This important information can help you stay organized and take advantage of the many opportunities that will be available. The NOPBC Conference takes place within the NFB convention. The NOPBC conference, the NFB convention, & NFB Child Care have separate registration & fees. In addition to registering for the NOPBC conference, it's important to register for the NFB convention so that you receive our special hotel room rates.*

### **INFORMAL TRIP DAY—SATURDAY, JULY 4**

- A group of parents will be meeting informally in the hotel lobby at 1 PM for a trip to WonderWorks, an interactive indoor amusement park, a short distance from the hotel. All are invited.

### **SEMINAR DAY INFORMATION—SUNDAY, JULY 5**

- Register for the NOPBC Conference at [www.nopbc.org](http://www.nopbc.org).
- On Seminar Day, Sun., July 5, adults, children, and youth are invited to start the morning together at the “Crafting Your Diamond” Seminar, where children will have the opportunity to chat with NFB President Mark Riccobono. At the end of the general session (10:45 AM) children preregistered with NFB child care will be escorted to the Music & Movement activity and youth 11-18 will be escorted to the Youth Track activity, while adults attend workshops. At the lunch break, pick up your child from child care for lunch on your own. After lunch there will be workshops for adults, a children’s activity in the child care rooms, and Youth Track activities.
- Save your registration badge for free admission to NOPBC Family Hospitality following the Seminar.

### **ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH, CHILD CARE INFORMATION**

- NOPBC daytime children’s activities take place in NFB Child Care. *To take part in an activity, your child must be registered for child care for that day.* To register for NFB child care, called NFB Camp, visit [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) and click on National Convention.
- Child care is provided by the NFB for children 6 weeks to 12 years old each day except Monday, July 6. Child care is also available on Banquet night, Friday., July 10. Children must be registered to attend. The child care schedule appears toward the end of this agenda.
- Other activities for children and youth include the the NABS Social, Cane Walk, Youth Style Show, and the Breaking Barriers Funathlon, Youth Track activities, & the Tween Room, open for chaperoned, informal activities and snacks at various times during the week. Schedules appear toward the end of this agenda.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK LONG**

- Certain special NOPBC activities for parents, children, and youth are listed **only in this agenda**—for ex., our Cane Walks, children’s activities, and Tween Room.
- Other activities that you and your child might want to attend are listed in the NFB Convention agenda (this is a separate document). Please register for both the NOPBC Conference at [www.nopbc.org](http://www.nopbc.org) or by completing the paper form and the NFB Convention at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) so that you will be aware of all that is going on.
- Many activities will be going on at the same time. You & your child will have to make choices! Read this NOPBC agenda as well as the NFB agenda so that you don’t miss out! For example:
  - NFB Convention sessions Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday; Banquet Friday evening—be sure to do your ticket exchange—details in the NFB Convention agenda
  - Tactile art, Mock Trial, Talent Show, Karaoke Night, a play written and performed by blind people, training center open houses, tech demos, and much more!
  - Activities of the Blind Students, Sports & Rec, Performing Arts, Writers, Educators, Lawyers, Computer Scientists, Guide Dog Users, Agriculture & Equestrian, Car Lovers
  - Our incomparable Exhibit Hall—the latest technology and other items of interest
  - The Banquet and scholarship presentations

# National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

## **CRAFTING YOUR DIAMOND**

2015 National Seminar and Conference  
for Parents & Teachers

**SUNDAY, JULY 5**

**9:00 am - 4:45 pm**

**Morning General Session and Workshops**

### **7:30 - 8:45 am REGISTRATION**

Parents, children, and youth are invited to start the morning together at the "Crafting Your Diamond" Seminar. At 10:45 a.m. children *preregistered with NFB Child Care* will be escorted to the children's activity in child care and youth 11-18 will be escorted to the Youth Track rooms. Save your NOPBC registration badge for free admission to Family Hospitality after the Seminar!

### **9:00 - 10:45 am GENERAL SESSION**

Welcome from **Carlton Anne Cook Walker**, President, NOPBC; **Kid Talk** with **Mark Riccobono**, President, National Federation of the Blind; Keynote Address; Adult Panel; Youth Panel

### **10:45 am CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE ESCORTED TO ACTIVITIES**

*Children & Youth activities end at 12:15 pm*

### **11:00 am NOPBC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY (ages 5 - 12) in NFB Child Care**

**Music and Movement**—Conchita Hernandez, Teacher of Blind Students  
*To participate, child must be signed up for child care for this day.*

### **11:00 am - 12:15 pm NOPBC YOUTH TRACK ACTIVITY (ages 11 - 18)**

**Ice Breakers**—Garrick Scott, President, NFB of GA

**A Dog in My Life**—Nat'l Assoc. of Guide Dog Users (NAGDU)

### **11:00 am - 12:15 pm NOPBC WORKSHOPS for PARENTS & TEACHERS**

#### **Learn to Play & Play to Learn**

Facilitating your child's learning and play. This session will be of special interest to families with children with additional disabilities. Instructor: Heather Field, Special Educator

#### **The ABCs of Braille**

A hands-on workshop that will teach the beginning of Braille reading and writing. Instructor: Jamie Allison, Lead Instructor, NFB BELL in SC

## **The National Reading Media Assessment (NRMA) & the National O&M Assessment (NOMA)**

What's in these new, cutting edge assessments? Will they benefit your child? Instructors: Sheena Manuel, TBS, NOMC, Outreach Specialist, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness; Casey Robertson, TBS, Faculty, PDRIB

### **Using Readers**

Learning the critical skill of using a human reader for academic and personal tasks. Instructor: Carol Castellano, Director of Programs, NOPBC

**12:15 pm LUNCH** on your own. Pick up children from Child Care.

**1:30 pm CHILD CARE REOPENS**

**2:00 pm NOPBC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY** (ages 5 - 12) in NFB Child Care  
*To participate, child must be signed up for child care for this day.*

**Monsters and Me**—Ann Cunningham, Tactile Artist; Debbie Kent Stein, NFB of IL

**2:00 - 4:45 pm NOPBC YOUTH TRACK** (ages 11 - 18)

**Fun & Games**—Richard Gibbs, Owner, 64 Oz. Games

**The Magic of Science**—Dr. Cary Supalo, Independence Science; Robert Jaquiss, American Thermoform

**2:00 - 3:15 pm NOPBC WORKSHOPS for PARENTS & TEACHERS**

### **Ages & Stages**

Facilitating the child's progress toward the next logical step in development. This session will be of special interest to families with children with additional disabilities. Instructor: Natalie Shaheen, Director of Education, NFB Jernigan Institute

### **Standardized Tests & Test Accommodations: What You Need to Know**

What are the issues with Smarter Balance and PARCC? What testing accommodations will work for your child's success? Instructors: Mehgan Sidhu, General Counsel, NFB; Valerie Youngling, Paralegal, NFB; Carlton Walker, TBS, President, NOPBC

### **Independence Skills for Real Life**

What skills does your child need for an independent future and how can you cultivate them? Instructors: Sean Whalen, Karen Anderson, Nat'l Association of Blind Students (NABS)

### **Technology: Home & School**

What kind of technology do BVI kids need? Instructor: Eric Guillory, Director of Youth Services, Louisiana Center for the Blind

### **3:30 - 4:45 pm NOPBC WORKSHOPS for PARENTS & TEACHERS**

#### **Fostering Independent Movement & Travel in Your Child**

Working toward maximum independence and self-determination for your child. This session will focus on young children and children with additional disabilities. Instructor: Denise Mackenstadt, NOMC

#### **Make-&-Take Graphics**

Learn the basics of making tactile graphics for children and create one to take home. Instructor: Carlton Walker, TBS, President, NOPBC

#### **Independent Living Skills and Independent Movement & Travel for the School-Age Child**

High expectations, real-life goals, and how to achieve them. Instructor: Mary Jo Hartle, NOMC, TBS

#### **Using College Disability Support Services (DSS)**

How DSS offices provide accommodations and how to access and use them effectively without losing your independence. Instructors: Candice Chapman, Cody Bair, Derek Manners, NABS

### **5:30 - 7:00 pm NOPBC FAMILY HOSPITALITY**

Relax, snack, chat, meet new families and teachers, and connect with old friends. Veteran attendees will be on hand to welcome you and provide information. Free admission with 2015 NOPBC Conference name badge; \$15/adult and \$5/child without badge. Pizza and lemonade will be served. Co-sponsored by Professionals in Blindness Education (PIBE).

### **7:00 - 8:00 pm NOPBC FAMILY NETWORKING**

At this meeting we especially welcome our families whose children have disabilities in addition to blindness/visual impairment. Come meet, chat, and network. Facilitators: Laura Bostic & Casey Robertson, Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB)

### **8:00 - 9:30 pm NOPBC BOARD MEETING**

### **8:00 pm to 11:00 pm NABS STUDENT SOCIAL (ages 14 - 18)**

## MONDAY, JULY 6

**Child Care is CLOSED on this day.**

*Register for the NFB Convention, purchase your Banquet tickets, visit the Exhibit Hall & Independence Market. Check the NFB agenda for interesting meetings and activities such as the NOPBC Youth Style Show & Funathlon, tactile art, tech groups, Resolutions Committee, Mock Trial, and student meeting.*

**8:45 – 10:30 am CANE WALK Session I**

**11:00 am – 12:45 pm CANE WALK Session II**

Wondering if your child should use a cane? Curious about how a cane works? Learn and *experience* the Discovery Method of travel at these special workshops (not listed in NFB agenda). Parents, teachers, blind/VI children, and siblings are welcome. Coordinator: Jeff Altman, NOMCT, CVRCB

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm TWEEN ROOM OPEN** (ages 11-14) *Text or call Penny Duffy at 603-892-6355 for location. Feel free to bring your lunch.*

**2:45 – 4:00 pm NOPBC YOUTH STYLE SHOW**

(Rehearsal begins at 1:00 pm)

Our young blind models & NFB stars strut their stuff on the runway. We extend a special invitation to our kids with additional disabilities. Come enjoy the fashions and music and support NOPBC. \$5 at the door. Coordinator: Kim Cunningham, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, NOPBC

**5:00 – 5:30 pm NOPBC BREAKING BARRIERS FUNATHLON**

Pool Area

Swim through shark-infested waters, race through an alligator-infested swamp, shoot down barriers to independence (on hotel grounds—no danger involved). Join us for this fun-filled family fundraiser. \$5 to participate. Raise money for NOPBC by collecting pledges—please bring pledge sheets and donations to event. Coordinator: Jean Bening, NOPBC Board

**7:30 – 9:30 pm PARENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM—PLP**

Has the NOPBC helped you and your family? Would you like to get more involved? Come learn about leadership opportunities in your state. Coordinator: Carol Castellano, Director of Programs, NOPBC

## TUESDAY, JULY 7

*In the morning, visit the Exhibit Hall and the Independence Market; attend the NFB Board of Directors meeting—it's open to all. In the afternoon, drop the kids off at their activities and come to the NOPBC Annual Meeting!*

**10:00 - 10:45 am NOPBC YOUTH TRACK (ages 11 - 14)**

**11:00 - 11:45 am NOPBC YOUTH TRACK (ages 14 - 18)**

**Unleashing Your Inner Monster**, Ann Cunningham, Tactile Artist

**12:45 pm CHILD CARE WILL BE OPEN EARLY**

Give your child lunch, then drop child off early at child care this afternoon—*so that you can attend the NOPBC Annual Meeting which begins at 1 pm.*

**NOPBC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY (ages 5-12) in NFB Child Care**

**Fun & Games**—Richard Gibbs, Owner, 64 Oz. Games

Takes place during Child Care afternoon session.

*To participate, child must be signed up for child care for this day.*

**1:00 - 4:00 pm NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11-18)**

**Student to Student**—National Association of Blind Students (NABS)

**1:00 - 4:00 pm NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN ANNUAL MEETING: OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Attention parents and teachers! Be sure to attend this important meeting featuring the 2015 Distinguished Educator of Blind Children, update from the NFB Jernigan Institute, the latest info on accessible science, art, textbooks, games, technology; writing contest winners, Parent Power, kid power; NOPBC business, elections. *Special bonus: meeting attendees receive priority entrance ticket to Braille Book Fair!*

**5:00 - 7:00 pm BRAILLE BOOK FAIR**

To celebrate the NFB's 75th Anniversary, the American Action Fund has generously donated 750 print-Braille books to this year's Braille Book Fair! A book lover's dream! Browse tables of new and used Braille and print/ Braille books. Volunteers will box your books and deliver them to the post office for Free Matter shipment to your home. Books are free; donations are encouraged to help support our Braille programs. Coordinator: Krystal Guillory, Teacher of Blind Students, NFB of Louisiana BELL Coordinator.

**7:30 - 9:00 pm DADS' NIGHT OUT**

All dads, sighted and blind, are welcome at this NOPBC-sponsored event. Call Bill Cucco at 201-602-6318 for location.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

**7:00 - 9:00 am NOPBC BOARD MEETING**

**9:30 - 12:00 pm NFB CONVENTION OPENING SESSION!**

Be there for the bang of the gavel and the roar of the crowd! See the NFB Convention Agenda for program details.

**12:15 - 1:45 pm TWEEN ROOM OPEN** (ages 11-14) *Text or call*

*Penny Duffy at 603-892-6355 for location. Feel free to bring your lunch.*

**2:00 - 5:00 pm NFB CONVENTION SESSION**

See NFB Convention Agenda for program details

**7:00 - 10:00 pm NOPBC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY** (ages 5 - 12)

*For children whose parents are attending NOPBC evening workshops.*

**Crafts & Games**

**7:00 - 10:00 pm NOPBC YOUTH TRACK ACTIVITIES** (ages 11 - 18)

**Deal Me In: Learning Poker & Other Card Games**—Instructors:

Jason Polansky & Ben Schuler, Summer Staff, Louisiana Center for the Blind

**7:00 - 9:45 pm NOPBC CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

**7:00 - 8:15 pm Adopting a Blind/Visually Impaired Child**

A look at the adoption process from initial considerations to real life at home from experienced adoptive parents. Instructors: Merry-Noel Chamberlain, TBS, NOMC, and Marty Chamberlain, Adoptive Parents, POBC of NE

**7:00 - 8:15 pm IEP Workshop for Parents of Blind/VI Students**

The basics of IEP development and how to be an active and effective participant. Instructor: Dan Frye, Attorney; Executive Director, NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**8:30 - 9:45 pm Staying Calm**

How to get through an IEP meeting without raising your blood pressure and losing your cool and your mind! Instructor: Sharon Maneki, Advocate; President, NFB of MD



## THURSDAY, JULY 9

### 8:30 am CHILD CARE OPENS

**NOPBC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY** (ages 5-12) in NFB Child Care

Takes place during Child Care morning session.

*To participate, child must be signed up for child care for this day.*

**Science Adventures**—Dr. Cary Supalo, Independent Science; Robert Jaquiss, American Thermoform

### 9:00 am - 12:00 pm NFB CONVENTION SESSION

See NFB Convention Agenda for program details

### 12:15 - 1:45 pm TWEEN ROOM OPEN (ages 11-14) *Text or call*

*Penny Duffy at 603-892-6355 for location. Feel free to bring your lunch.*

### 2:00 - 5:00 pm NFB CONVENTION SESSION

See NFB Convention Agenda for program details

### 7:30 - 9:30 pm PARENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM—PLP

Has the NOPBC helped you and your family? Would you like to get more involved? Come learn about leadership opportunities in your state.

## FRIDAY, JULY 10

### 9:00 am - 12:00 pm NFB CONVENTION SESSION

See NFB Convention Agenda for program details

### 12:15 - 1:45 pm TWEEN ROOM OPEN (ages 11-14) *Text or call*

*Penny Duffy at 603-892-6355 for location. Feel free to bring your lunch.*

### 12:30 - 1:45 pm NOPBC BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Location to be announced.

Come share your ideas and help to plan next year's conference.

### 2:00 - 5:00 pm NFB CONVENTION SESSION

See NFB Convention Agenda for program details

### 7:00 pm BANQUET

# NOPBC 2015 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

1:00 pm (tentative) Informal group trip to WonderWorks

## SUNDAY, JULY 5

7:30 - 8:45 am	Seminar Registration—be sure to pick up your agenda!
9:00 - 10:45 am	NOPBC <b>Crafting Your Diamond Seminar</b> General Session (Adults, Children, Youth)
10:45 am	Children & Youth are escorted to their activities
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	NOPBC Children's Activity in Child Care (ages 5 - 12)
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Youth Track (ages 11 - 18)
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	NOPBC Concurrent Workshops
12:15 - 2:00	Lunch on your own. Feed your kids.
P.M Session	NOPBC Children's Activity in Child Care (ages 5 - 12)
2:00 - 4:45 pm	Youth Track (ages 11 - 18)
2:00 - 3:15 pm	NOPBC Concurrent Workshops
3:30 - 4:45 pm	NOPBC Concurrent Workshops
5:30 - 7:00 pm	NOPBC Family Hospitality
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Family Networking
8:00 - 9:30 pm	NOPBC Board Meeting
8:00 - 11:00 pm	NABS Student Social (ages 14 - 18)

## MONDAY, JULY 6

8:45 - 10:30 am	Cane Walk Session I (Adults, Children, Youth)
11:00 am- 12:45 pm	Cane Walk Session II (Adults, Children, Youth)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Tween Room open
2:45 - 4:00 pm	NOPBC Youth Style Show (rehearsal at 1 pm)
5:00 - 5:30 pm	NOPBC Breaking Barriers Funathlon
7:30 - 9:30 pm	Parent Leadership Program (PLP)

## TUESDAY, JULY 7

10:00 - 10:45 am	Youth Track (ages 11 - 14)
11:00 - 11:45 am	Youth Track (ages 14 - 18)
1:00 - 4:00 pm	NOPBC Annual Meeting—you may drop your child off early in Child Care this p.m. in order to get to the meeting on time
1:00 - 4:00 pm	Youth Track (ages 11 - 18)
P.M. Session	NOPBC Children's Activity in Child Care (ages 5 - 12)
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Braille Book Fair
7:30 - 9:00 pm	Dad's Night Out

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

7:00 - 9:00 am	NOPBC Board Meeting
9:30 am - 12:00 pm	NFB Opening Session
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Tween Room open
2:00 - 5:00 pm	NFB General Session
7:00 - 9:45 pm	NOPBC Evening Workshops
7:00 - 10:00 pm	NOPBC Children's Activity (ages 5 - 12) for children whose parents are in the NOPBC workshops
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Youth Track (11 - 18)

## THURSDAY, JULY 9

A.M. Session	NOPBC Children's Activity in Child Care (ages 5 - 12)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	NFB General Session
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Tween Room open
2:00 - 5:00 pm	NFB General Session
7:30 - 9:30 pm	Parent Leadership Program (PLP)

## FRIDAY, JULY 10

9:00 am - 12:00 pm	NFB General Session
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Tween Room open
12:30 - 1:45 pm	NOPBC Brainstorming
2:00 - 5:00 pm	NFB General Session
7:00 pm	Banquet