**Independence 101 2013 tri-fold text**

**OUTSIDE**

**Cover**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Independence 101

July 20 to August 10, 2013

For Blind and Low Vision Middle School Students

(A group picture of the kids - smiling sitting on the couch together)

“We positively change people’s attitudes about blindness”

**Mailing Label**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

3345 Washington Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21227

**Independence 101 Logo in Blue**

For more Information about BISM Youth programs

Please contact: Dan Wenzel

Manager of Youth Services at BISM

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Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Independence 101

For Blind and Low Vision Middle School Students

Middle School Students who are blind or have low vision:

· Learn non-visual techniques in Braille, cane travel, independent living, and the use of technology

· Participate in age-appropriate social recreational activities & travel to Washington DC

· Engage in structured discussions & listen to presentations by successful blind adults to learn how to optimize your success

· Live in apartments with blind peers & responsible blind adults

· Attend baseball games and/or other recreational activities

· Visit Baltimore area attractions such as the Inner-Harbor

· Rock-climb and sail

Join us for an action-packed, enriching summer!

**INSIDE**

**Left**

“Independence 101”

A Summer full of Learning and Fun

( 2 students crossing the road, using their white canes)

For students summer represents many things: hang out with friends at the pool or mall, learning a skill, taking a trip, exploring familiar & unfamiliar places...

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) “Independence 101” offers all those things and much more during this three-week comprehensive independence skills program for middle school students who are blind or have low vision. Like most “summer camps,” students participate in a wide-array of social and recreational activities.

**Center**

Just as many of their sighted peers are meeting new friends at camp; program participants will meet other middle school students who are blind or have low vision.

Activities are more fun with friends!

Activities include: visiting points of interest in Baltimore, taking a train to explore Washington DC, rock-climbing, sailing, attending recreational events and just hanging out at the mall.

Students will also learn age-appropriate independence and social skills, building the foundation needed to be successful as they transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Students will optimize their ability by learning to use non-visual techniques. Their confidence and self-esteem will improve as they understand that a lack of vision need not prevent them from achieving their personal, professional and scholastic goals.

Participants will live with competent blind adults who use non-visual techniques on a daily basis. Students will interact with successful blind adults and develop long-lasting friendships with other participants in the program!

**Independence 101 Logo in Blue**

**Right**

(A photo of 2 girls in discussion-sitting together in a large chair)

At BISM we have high expectations for students who are blind or have low vision! This summer you can build a foundation of skills and experience which will help you to achieve your future goals!

We use an online application. To apply: Go to [www.bism.org/youth](http://www.bism.org/youth) and complete the “Independence 101 2013” application **by April 1, 2013.** Applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis. Applications received after April 1 will be considered as space permits. All applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance to the program. If you need assistance with the application or have any questions, please contact Dan Wenzel at (410) 737-2642.

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