The Cleveland Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Offers

An Introductory Seminar for the Newly Blind

October 5, 2019

9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Brook Park Library

6155 Engle Road, Brook Park, Ohio 44142

Introduction:

This is an introductory Seminar for newly blind individuals that will highlight best practices by Peer Mentors  from the National Federation of the Blind of Cleveland. The philosophy of the NFB will be presented,  along with the “value of alternative techniques of blindness, and the solid belief that it is okay to be blind.”

During The seminar, four small sessions will be offered by Peer Mentors for newly blind individuals and their supportive companion to learn about alternative ways to continue everyday living. These small settings will offer guidance, advice, assistance and demonstrations from a real-world point of view. Hence, sharing knowledge and experiences in order to help the participants succeed  is our main objective. Having a wonderful trusted ally to go to whenever blind people are feeling unsure or in need is why the NFB is here. We want to meet the needs of each participant in moving forward at their own pace and under their own control.

General Session for all attendees:

Part I

The goal of this Session is to introduce the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

Part II

The goal of this session is to introduce Basic Techniques and products for everyday use.

Part III

The goal of this session is to Identify, explore and recommend community resources to enhance activities, to become involved in one’s residential  area and to increase peer interaction and support.

Breakout Sessions

Each Session will have 4 attendees present with a total of 16 participants in the Seminar. These participants will rotate through four sessions; having an opportunity to interact with Peer Mentors and explore “hands on” products, technology and practical methods.

SESSION: A

Title: Staying Connected, accessing print and electronic media.

Overview

This session provides an overview of aids, appliances, and services that enable blind individuals to fully access mainstream means of communication media, ranging from use of standard telephones and note taking to reading books, periodicals, text messages, email, and web pages.

Session B:

**Title: Literacy for the Blind, Reading and Writing Braille**

**Overview:**

This session will provide a preliminary summary on what is meant by Braille, who invented Braille and when, what are the benefits of learning Braille, where to learn Braille, what are the different grades of Braille, what are the different codes of Braille in the USA, what are the tools for writing Braille and what are the available resources for Braille.

Session C:

Title: Assistive Technology

Overview:

This session  provides an overview of Assistive Technology software and hardware products that aide the blind in equal access to email, websites and computer applications.

Session D:

Title: Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

Overview:

This Session provides an overview of basic orientation and mobility concepts for newly blind participants and their supportive companions.

To become a participant, please complete the following questions. The completed questions may be submitted by either email or print copy to:

Email: [ali.benmerzouga@hotmail.com](mailto:ali.benmerzouga@hotmail.com)

Print Copy: NFB of Ohio, Cleveland Chapter,

PO Box 141077

Cleveland, Ohio 44114.

Every submission will be given high consideration. Participants and their supportive companion will be notified no later than September 13, 2019. For questions, please contact Suzanne Turner at (216) 990-6199 or email by [SMTurner.234@gmail.com](mailto:SMTurner.234@gmail.com).

Please complete the questions below.

Participant Name:

Participant Telephone Number:

Participant Email:

Participant’s preferred format for seminar materials (Regular print, large print, Braille, or electronic format)

Supportive Companion Name:

Supportive Companion Telephone Number:

Supportive Companion Email:

How did you learn about the Conference?

Are you a Member of the NFB?

Do you reside in Cleveland or a suburb?

Do you have a special diet, if lunch is provided?

Do you have a secondary disability, besides blindness?

Please provide additional information if necessary.