



**FIESTA ESPECIAL® ROYAL COURT
PROGRAM ORIENTATION**



To educate, advance and engage individuals with disabilities by sharing information, creating opportunities and strengthening the organizations that serve them.

disABILITYsa Programs

- **Established Programs**

- disABILITYsa.org
- AccessAbility fest
- abilitySTRONG Parade
- Conversation 360°
- Service & Leadership Program
- Fiesta Especial®

- **New Programs**

- Disability Friendly Recognition Program
- Agency Coalition Program





The Fiesta Especial[®] programs create inclusive and educational experiences engaging individuals with disabilities in the culture and celebrations of Fiesta[®] through community instruction & training.



Fiesta® San Antonio
is an annual celebration of the
diverse heritage, culture and
traditions of San Antonio for its
residents and visitors focused on
raising funds to provide services
to San Antonio citizens
throughout the year.

**Fiesta brings out the royalty in all
walks of life, groups of people,
and social clubs to represent the
great diversity of our community.**



Royal
Court

Celebration
Day

5K &
Parade

Fiesta Especial[®] Royal Court

*Leadership & Life-skills
Development Program*

Creating visibility for
the leadership and
contributions individuals
with disabilities make in
our community each day.

2017 Fiesta Especial Royal Court



service
difference
success
lead
achieve
example
growth
opportunities
role model
contribution
FUN
LEARN
ability
serve
advance
give
believe
CONFIDENCE
leadership
contribution
develop
royal
attain
experience
VOLUNTEER
dream
impact
benefit others
EMPOWERED
influence
Qualities
challenge
visibility
changing the community
lead

The Royal Program



The Fiesta Especial® Royal Court is a leadership and life skills development program for individuals with disabilities. Through this program, participants have numerous opportunities to learn and develop skills in social environments, leadership interactions, problem solving, communication and more.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Children and adults with disabilities who would like to develop their leadership and life skills through a community training and instruction program.

Target Age Range: 10 and up

Our oldest participant so far was 52.

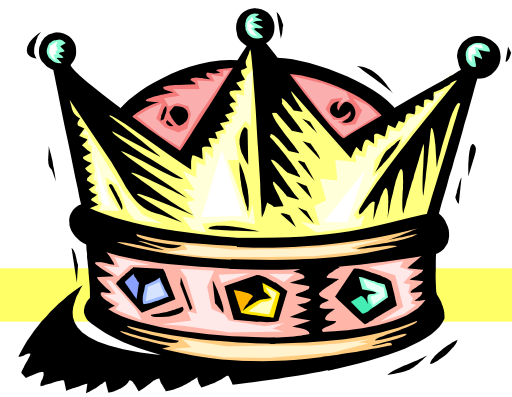


WHY PARTICIPATE???

- **Unique leadership experience focused on social, problem solving, communication and leadership skill development**
- **Advocacy for children and adults with disabilities, expanding awareness and understanding in the San Antonio community**
- **Incorporates service opportunities and giving back to the community.**
- **Expands support networks**



Skill Development



Social Skills

- Appearance & grooming
- Clothing for various social situations
- Accepting difference in things and people
- Peer interaction
- Understanding various social situations
- Accepting compliments and praise
- Staying with the group
- Social etiquette development

Leadership Development

- Goal setting
- Recruiting support

- Public speaking
- Networking
- Interviewing
- Role modeling
- Practicing independence

Problem Solving Skills

- Staying engaged in a task and/or activity
- Scheduling activities for a variety of reasons
- Knowing what is expected in a given circumstances

Communication Skills

- Asking for financial support
- Television interviews: commenting/responding

- Turn taking skills
- Following directions
- Initiate and respond to greetings
- Conversation skills
- Asking for a break

Other Skills

- Learning about one's community
- Advocating for wants and needs
- Developing a plan of action
- Making responsible choices

This Program Impacts

- Individuals with disabilities in the SA community
- Benefiting Organizations
- Special Education and Day Habilitation Programs in Bexar County





2019-2020 Fiesta Especial Royal Court

BENEFITING ORGANIZATIONS

- **40% of funds** (*minus processing fees*) **raised by program participants are donated to a pre-approved local, nonprofit, disability service organization. The first \$250 of the funds will be towards a disABILITYsa basic nonprofit membership for the benefiting organization**
- **Recognition during public appearances**
- **Highlighted in programs and on Fiesta Especial[®] website.**
- **Complimentary vendor table at the 5K & Parade and Celebration Day events.**

FIESTA ESPECIAL[®] BY DISABILITYSA CELEBRATION DAY

A community-based training experience filled with Social Studies, Science, Reading, Communication, Arts, Math, Life Skills application and Critical Skills development.

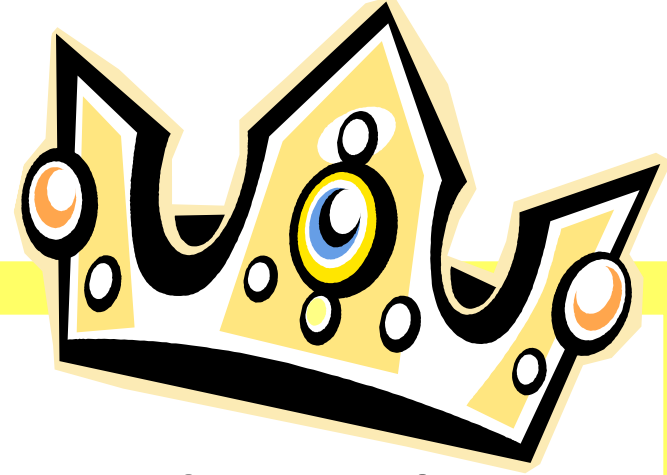
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Schools	133	107	78	76	47	64
Districts	20	19	18	19	11	14
Students	2,291	1592	1297	1048	710	1321
PALs	449	294	212	110	68	
Adults	1404	1025	774	593	365	545
Busses	186	133	105	80	52	76
Cars	288	259	160	113	46	22
Bus Funds Requested	\$11,355	\$9,550	\$9,728	\$7,445	\$4,440	\$6,725
Bus Funds Allocated	\$10,000	\$6,580	\$5,263	\$4,800	\$4,440	\$6,525
Royal Court Allocation	\$51,628	\$22,995	\$7,348	\$10,879	\$32,849	\$5,769



2016 Fiesta Especial Royal Court



2021-2022 Fiesta Especial® Royal Court Program



Fiesta Especial Royal Court

- 20 Qualified individuals, ages 10 years and up, with a physical, cognitive or sensory disability will serve in title positions on the court.
- King (1), Queen (1), Prince (1), Princess (1), and 2 or more Duke/Duchess, Marquis/Marquess, Count/Countess, Baron/Baroness, and Page.
- Program participants must agree to minimum appearance and attendance requirements. King and Queen are expected to participate above the minimum requirements.

Candidates qualify for title positions on the Fiesta Especial® Royal Court with their fundraising campaigns from September - December.

PROGRAM INFO



- **Campaign Session**

(August 28th – December 3rd)

disABILITYsa staff and volunteers will assist each candidate in establishing a plan for their campaign and in the execution of that plan.

- **Appearance Session**

(January 22nd – April 30th)

There will be numerous opportunities for participants to make public appearances, visits, TV appearances, and more!



CAMPAIGN SESSION

(August 28th – DECEMBER 3rd)

- **The Fiesta Especial[®] Royal Court program follows the traditional path for Fiesta[®] Royalty in that funds are raised by those interested in participating to benefit the community.**
- **Campaigns enable participants to put into practice the lessons reviewed in the workshop.**
- **The program itself is funded through program sponsorships, individual donations, Reveal Party, and Coronation events.**

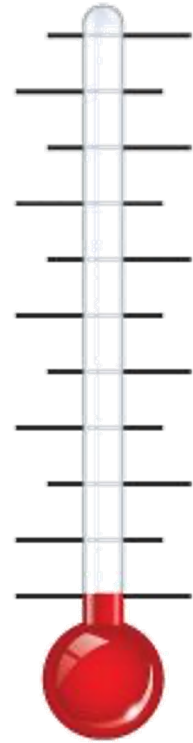
Campaign Session Goals

- **Set Campaign Goals**
- **Create a Plan**
- **Identify Networks**
- **Build a Team**
- **Communicate a Clear Message**
- **Ask for Support**

Candidates qualify for title positions on the Fiesta Especial® Royal Court with their fundraising campaigns from September - December.

**GO FOR
THE GOAL!**

Our Goal: _____



2019 Fiesta Especial® Royal Court



CAMPAIGN INCENTIVES

Program participants will be eligible for incentives as they achieve the following milestones in their campaigns:

- \$625** Minimum requirement must be met. Official Sash, Crown (females) and 10 Fiesta Especial® Medals, 10 Fiesta Especial® Pins, and Two (2) complimentary tickets to the coronation. (1) disABILITYsa water bottle carrier/holder
- \$1,000** Five (5) complimentary “I Voted” Fiesta Especial® pins to distributed to campaign donors .
- \$2,000** Five (5) additional official Fiesta Especial® Medals to give out or exchange.
- \$3,000** One (1) complimentary Fiesta Especial® Banner to use in the Fiesta Especial® Parade.
- \$5,000** One (1) embroidered tote bag
- \$7,500** Two (2) complimentary tickets to a selection of partner Fiesta® events.
- \$10,000** Participants will receive a spotlight appearance (*first come, first serve*)

Royal Court Leader Board

Tommy Flores, 2018 King, raised \$24,314
Victoria Camarillo, 2019 Queen, raised \$22,635
Kevyn Rooney, 2015 Queen, raised \$20,248
Seaylee Ferencak, 2019 Princess, raised \$17,058
Anna Smedley, 2020 Queen, raised \$14,224
Carter Shute, 2021 King, raised \$13,064
Cody Gustafson, 2015 Duke, raised \$11,668
Cory Wyckoff, 2019 King, raised \$10,650
Stephanie Crane, 2021 Princess, raised \$8,664
Raj Mulwani, 2019 Prince, raised \$8,281
Tristan Gentry, 2013 King, raised \$7,980
Carter Shute, 2019 Duke, raised \$7,006
Lindsey Moharam, 2016 Queen, raised \$5,813
Jaiden Rangel, 2020 King, raised \$5,783
Vanessa Serna, 2017 Queen, raised \$5,353
Emma Barron, 2019 Duchess, raised \$4,786
Julian Ramirez, 2021 Prince, raised \$4,771
Julian Chapa, 2012 Prince, raised \$4,678
Jada Cherry, 2012 Princess, raised \$4,678
Vanessa Jo Serna, 2018 Queen, raised \$4,167
Cambria Johnston, 2020 Princess, raised \$4,099
Rachel Farias, 2020 Duchess, raised \$3,936
Raquel Whitmire, 2020 Marquess, raised \$3,842
Laura Brewster, 2018 Princess, raised \$3,813
Caitlin Verastegui, 2012 Page, raised \$3,338

Jaiden Rodriguez, 2021 Countess, raised \$3,096
Queenie Moore, 2020 Countess, raised \$2,875
Julian Francisco Ramirez, 2018 Prince, raised \$2,674
Adam Vela, 2016 King, raised \$2,572.55
David Fischer, 2016 Prince, raised \$2,568.50
Breanna Harrison, 2021 Baroness, raised \$2,565
Kathryn Ransleben, 2021 Baroness, raised \$2,502
Jakob Curnutt, 2019 Marquis, raised \$2,483
Collin Christian, 2014 King, raised \$2,467.12
Grace Garza, 2019 Duchess, raised \$2,242
Stephany Gonzalez, 2019 Marquess, raised \$2,233
Jordan Allen, 2019 Marquess, raised \$2,222
Rebekah Rosenheim, 2017 Princess, raised \$2,140
Macauley Zaehring, 2016 Princess, raised \$2,045
Luis Nieves, 2012 Page, raised \$2,000
Chelsea Figueroa, 2013 Queen, raised \$1,930
Heather Bragg, 2017 Duchess, raised \$1,907
Steven Rodriguez, 2015 Prince, raised \$1,900
Tiffany Leavelle, 2019 Countess, raised \$1,705
Gabby Martinez, 2016 Duchess, raised \$1,676.23
Melissa Cochran, 2012 Queen, raised \$1,559
Cambria Johnston, 2019 Countess, raised \$1,476
Miguel Castro, 2015 Duke, raised \$1,467.72
Chelsea Figueroa, 2015 Duchess, raised \$1,395
Catherine Nivin, 2019 Baroness, raised \$1,379



**All goals are individualized.
You may or may not have a
financial goal.**



2015 Fiesta Especial Court

APPEARANCE SESSION

(January 22nd – April 30th)

- The Fiesta Especial Royal Court creates visibility for the Leadership and Contributions individuals with disabilities make in the community.
- During this session, the participants will have between 10 – 60 opportunities to make appearances within the community as a member of the court.
- TV, Radio, Fiesta Events, Greeters, Activities, etc.

Appearance Session Goals

- **Follow a schedule**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Keep commitments**
- **Royal Manners & Attire**
- **Meeting & Greeting**
- **Public Service**
- **Self-Advocacy and Advocacy for others**



Cape Examples





2017-2018 Fiesta Especial Royal Court

AWARENESS

Create visibility for the leadership & contributions individuals with disabilities are making in the community.

[Pledge to be disABILITY Friendly](#)

[Awareness Photo Cards](#)

[Celebration Day Coloring Book](#)

https://issuu.com/rmihomes/docs/2019_fiesta_especial_coloring_book_

AWARENESS

TAKE THE PLEDGE TO BE DISABILITY-FRIENDLY

I PLEDGE TO...

Be accepting
of other people's differences.

Be aware that some disabilities are invisible
I will be respectful of another person's need to have accommodations without questioning their reasons for asking for special help and supports.

Speak directly to people with disabilities
Even when it might be easier to turn to a family member, friend, interpreter, or caregiver who may be present, I will speak directly to the person I am speaking with.

Use People First language
I will use language that refers to the person first, not their disability. The way we speak or write about someone influences the images and attitudes we form, leaving behind a positive or negative impression for others.

Assume ability and intellect
I will use respectful, age-appropriate language and tone of voice that I would use with anyone else.

Ask before helping others
I will ask permission before assisting someone, understanding they may need my help or may be capable of accomplishing the task on their own.

Be informed
I will increase my knowledge and understanding about disabilities to make my community a more inclusive place for everyone.

disabilitysa.org/take-the-pledge



P.O. Box 28243 | San Antonio, Texas 78228
www.disABILITYsa.org

6 TIPS TO HELP SOMEONE WITH ADHD AND DYSLEXIA

Be Patient.

We will understand things if you give us time, sometimes you have to use different methods, like videos and songs to help us learn.

Make reading active.

Find libraries with play areas or read in parks. It helps to use up some excess energy and then read for short periods rather than trying to read for long periods.

Find out what we like and read it.

When I was younger, I really liked cooking, so we started with reading Cookbooks, that helped me build confident with reading. Now I read Japanese Mangas, I really enjoy reading with my friends now.

Know that I need help to calm down.

ADHD makes you feel very nervous, so it is hard to relax. I use blowing bubbles, favorite music and a quiet environment to help me get calm. A lot of people don't realize that we don't have any control of my emotions and it is scary for me. By being supportive and not making a big deal about it, you can help me feel better about it.

Be active.

Doing activities, walking, swimming or going outside helps to use up excess energy so that I can focus on a task, especially if I feel nervous about it. Working on something for long periods of time makes me feel stuck.

Be our friend.

Often people feel alone, like they are the only one with this problem, or people treat them different. We are creative, fun and weird in the best way, so be our friend and we will all have a blast.

Tips by Grace Garza and friends.



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LEARN A FEW FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. Approximately one in every 700 babies in the U.S. is born with Down Syndrome.

People with Down syndrome have an increased risk for some medical conditions such as congenital heart defects, respiratory and hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, childhood leukemia and thyroid conditions.

Some common physical traits of Down syndrome are: low muscle tone, small stature, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm. Every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all.

Life expectancy for a person with Down syndrome has increased dramatically from 25 in 1983 to over 60 years of age today!

Down syndrome is not an illness or a disease, it is a developmental disability. All people with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild to moderate and it is not indicative of the many strengths and talents of each individual.

Quality educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care and positive support from family, friends and the community enable people with all types of differences to be active, engaged, and contributing citizens. People with Down syndrome go to college, work, get married, volunteer and live independently.

Learn more about Down Syndrome at dsastx.org



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COMMITMENT

Program Requirements:

- Campaign Workshop
- Campaign Kick-Off
- Cape / Medal Workshop
- Royal Court Reveal Party
- Appearance Workshop
- Coronation
- 5K & Parade
- 1 TV Appearance
- 1 Scheduled day of visitations
- A minimum of 3 other appearances
- Royal Court Graduation & Alumni Induction Party



The King and Queen positions on the court require an increased level of participation.

BENEFITING ORGANIZATIONS

Ainsley's Angels
Autism Treatment Center
Ability Pediatric Therapy
Alliance of Pediatric Providers
Angels Challenger Team (NB Little League)
Any Baby Can
Brighton Center
CALAB, Inc.
Care Warriors
Children's Assoc. for Maximum Potential
Clark H.S. Friends Having Fun
Converse Elementary School Special Education
Endless Possibilities for Special Stars
Eva's Heroes
Family Service
Fiesta Especial® by disABILITYsa
Job Adventures
Kabuki Gathering
Kinetic Kids
Monarch Academy

Morgan's Wonderland
Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc.
River City Christian School
San Antonio Clubhouse
Santa Rosa Hospital
Southwind Fields
Special Olympics Texas Area 20
Special Reach
Specialives
Spina Bifida Texas
Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children
Texas A&M University Council for Exceptional Children
The Academy at Morgan's Wonderland
The Arc of San Antonio
The Down Syndrome Association
The Ferrari Kids
Unicorn Center Steppers
University United Methodist Church
Young- Life Capernaum

OTHER INFORMATION

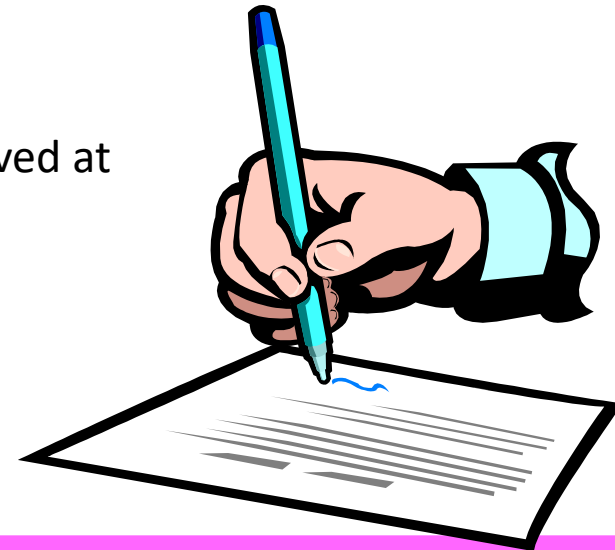
- **Submission Deadlines:**

- Program applications are due no later than **Friday, August 28th** at 5pm
- All campaign funds raised are due by **7:00pm on Friday, December 4th** at the offices of disABILITYsa. Fundraising totals are based on the actual amount submitted and received for each candidate.

- **40% Return:** The first \$250 of the funds will be towards a disABILITYsa basic nonprofit membership. Forty percent of the funds raised will be submitted to a pre-approved nonprofit organization serving individuals with disabilities of the candidate's choice at the Coronation. All undesignated funds will remain with Fiesta Especial® to cover costs of Celebration Day.

(W-9 Required with Nomination Submission)

- **Sponsorship Sharing:** for campaign contributions received at the \$1,000 amount or higher, Fiesta Especial® will work with you on recognizing your donor as a sponsor of the Royal Court throughout the Fiesta® season.



OTHER INFORMATION CONT.

- **Program Funding:** 100% of the campaign contributions (minus credit card processing fees) are distributed to the Fiesta Especial® Celebration Day program at disABILITYsa and the nonprofit disability service organization of the candidates choice.

None of the funds raised through the campaigns are used in the operation of the Royal Court program. Funds raised by disABILITYsa Staff and Volunteers are used to support the operations and purchase materials for the Royal Court program.

OTHER INFORMATION CONT.

- **Program Costs:** The Fiesta Especial® Royal Court Program is free to program participants. Each participant will get the full experience without any additional costs. Program participants and their caregivers may elect to engage in some program options that require a personal investment.
 - Additional tickets and admissions to events
 - Personalized Medals or additional Fiesta Especial® Medals
 - Additional Awareness Cards
 - Fiesta® San Antonio Parade entries
 - Fiesta Especial® Parade Banners
 - Campaign Materials
 - Cape materials approximately \$100
- **Optional Support:**
 - \$25 Junior Membership in disABILITYsa
 - \$250 donation to the program- 25% support
 - \$500 donation to the program- 50% support
 - \$750 donation to the program- 75% support
 - \$1,000 donation to the program- 100% support



OTHER INFORMATION CONT.

- **Other:**
 - When to wear your sash and crown
 - Cape and Medal Making Workshop & Support
 - Fiesta® Flambeau Parade Participation (Tentative)
 - [Campaign Materials](#)
 - Website & Campaign Pages
- **Answering the Question of “Why Participate” ...**
 - “I like to dress up.” “I like to meet new people.”
 - “I want to create awareness about different disabilities.”
 - “I want to help others.”
- **Fiesta Especial® Royal Court Sign-ups**
 - TeamUp will feature the calendar
 - All RSVPs will be created through JotForm platform
 - Email/Text /Message will be sent out when new sign-ups are posted. Links to sign-ups will also be posted in the Facebook Group for Royal Guardians.



GETTING STARTED

The enrollment form can be accessed through an email that will be sent out following this orientation.

Questions?



Contact Information

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