



RANDALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

LEGACY EMANUEL

Guidelines for Community Groups and Special Events

Thank you for your interest in visiting Randall Children's Hospital! Community groups play an important role in brightening a patient's hospital stay and provide comfort to many children and their families.

We ask that those interested in coming to Randall Children's Hospital as a community group meet the following criteria:

- Your group's purpose is geared towards children, or is a prevalent group in the community (i.e. sports teams, actors/actresses, etc.)
 - *Groups under the umbrella of "corporate volunteering" or "company giving" are not considered groups geared towards children. Please contact Jessica Thompson with the Child Life Program for more ideas on how to give back to Randall Children's Hospital.*
 - Your group is **unaffiliated** with any religious and/or political organizations.
 - All members of your group are over the age of 18 and out of high school.
 - Your group consists of no more than 6 members.
 - Are willing to come to the hospital during our designated community group visitation day—Thursday afternoons. Expected arrival time is anywhere between 15 – 45 minutes prior to the activity start time, depending on the preparation your group requires.
 - *Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.*
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If your group meets the above criteria, we ask that you review the following guidelines prior to inquiring about a visit to the hospital:

- All community groups planning to have patient contact are screened in advance to determine the appropriateness of the visit for hospitalized children. Groups must be approved and scheduled at least the **month before your anticipated visit** by the child life program.
 - Activity calendars for patients, families, and staff are distributed on the first of every month. Groups wanting to come during the month in which they inquire will be asked to schedule a later date.
 - **Community groups are not scheduled for the month of December**
- Children in the hospital range from newborn to 18 years old. Please prepare your visit appropriately for the ages and abilities of all children.
- Community group visits must be accompanied by a child life team member throughout the visit.
- Children in the hospital may need to come and go for your activity or performance, at times leaving a small group. For example, you may begin with one child and end with a group. Please prepare for this and, if you are considering a performance, please plan for no longer than 30 – 45 minutes.
- Children who are recovering from illness or surgery are susceptible to contagious illnesses. If **any** group member has been ill within the past 48 hours, we ask that they not visit.
 - Symptoms of illness include: fever, runny nose, cough, difficulty breathing, sore muscles/fatigue, difficulty breathing, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea, or exposure to chicken pox, mumps, or measles.
- **All members** of the visiting group **MUST have received the two-part Covid vaccine and must provide proof of vaccination prior to visiting.** Boosters are encouraged but not required.

- **Face masks are required to be worn while in the hospital.**
- Plans for gifts should be coordinated with the child life team. If you are interested in bringing gifts, we ask that you provide enough items for all children, both patients and siblings (plan for about 60). All gifts must be **brand new**. No “gently used” items will be accepted as gifts for the children. Please make sure that your gifts are appropriate for all ages and genders. If you have concerns, please talk with the child life program and see if a donation drop-off would be a better fit.
 - Interacting with children for the sole purpose of giving away toys is **NOT** permitted. If you are a community member wanting to donate toys, please contact the child life department.
- If your group is bringing a costumed character or mascot with you, please inform the child life staff for said character to be approved. Adequate changing spaces can be provided. Please note that children should not see the character without the costume intact. Characters should prepare for a lengthy activity and make accommodations accordingly.
- Community group members should dress comfortably. The following clothing is not permitted:
 - Sweatpants, sleepwear, pajama bottoms, thermal pants
 - Thermal underwear shirts, spaghetti strap tops, cropped tops, and muscle shirts
 - Clothing that reveals excessive skin of your bare back, chest, stomach, thighs or undergarments
 - Flip flops, slides, or slippers
 - Clothing and tattoos containing nudity, profanity, and/or obscene language or graphics should be covered
 - Please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne
- Due to the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), we are required to respect the privacy and confidentiality of our patients. Community groups must adhere to the following:
 - Please refrain from asking children, families, or staff to share information related to the child’s diagnoses, hospitalization, or personal, psychosocial, and medical needs.
 - Do not give advice regarding a patient or family’s personal, psychosocial, and/or medical needs.
 - Do not exchange phone numbers, e-mail, or social media accounts with patients/families.
 - For the privacy and confidentiality of our patients, all learned information, including patient names, must not be shared with anyone outside the hospital (including members of your own family, workplace, etc.)
- Due to confidentiality, **photos are not permitted without Public Relations present**. All photography requests by community groups must be made at the time of scheduling. Group members should have their cell phones and cameras put away for their visit.
- **Requests for news media must go through Public Relations at the time of scheduling.** Local news stations and other media outlets are not permitted on site without PR present. This includes the community group’s internal media personnel. Media requests may not be approved.
- **Food treats must be planned at the time of scheduling.** Child life staff must be made aware of any intention to bring food treats. Not all patients are able to eat and, therefore, further accommodations need to be made prior to the activity. Food treat requests may not be approved. Treats must be store-bought and individually wrapped. Homemade treats are not permitted.

If your groups meets the criteria and has reviewed the hospital community group visitation guidelines, please contact Jessica Thompson with the Child Life Program by email or phone.

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