

DeafBlind Transition Camp 2008

This is the third time DBTC will be held. Teens who have attended past camps have raved about their experience, telling us that they learned a lot while having fun. Many teens who have attended a DBTC met other teens who are DeafBlind for the first time, and have indicated that the camp was a life changing experience.

Teens who participate in the camp will benefit from an experience that mirrors college life. Campers attend information sessions on a variety of topics geared at making their postsecondary educational experience a success. These workshops are held in classrooms on the campus of Michigan State University. Topics for the 2008 camp include: Tips on Using a Dog Guide, Use of Assistive Listening Devices and other technology, The Rights of a College Student with Disabilities, Self Defense, Substance Abuse, as well as presentations by successful adults who are DeafBlind.

The teens are assigned a same-sex roommate and eat dorm food, so they have some insight into what will happen if they live on campus. In addition, social activities and games are coordinated to help the teens get to know one another and experience success to boost their self esteem. The camp is 100% accessible 100% of the time; Braille, large print, interpreters, captioning, Assistive Listening Devices, etc. are provided upon request and all games are adapted to be accessible for all campers.

There is no registration fee- the only expenses will be travel to and from the camp. Campers must be able to get to the Michigan State University campus. For the previous two camps, teens have traveled with their parents, who leave once the teen is settled in, or with an interpreter, who was also registered for the camp. In order to make DBTC fully accessible, we run a simultaneous immersion training for interpreters. Registration forms for interpreters will be made available shortly.

We are certain that this experience will make a difference for the teens who attend! Please feel free to copy the flyer for distribution. Any publicity that you are able to do for the camp is appreciated. Registration materials are posted on the DB Central website, www.dbcentral.org. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 7, 2008. Please call Beth Kennedy at 1-888-758-0508 (V/TTY) or Jill Gaus at 517-764-6178 (V/TTY/VP).