



Mission Road Developmental Center

# S.O.A.R. & MORE Summer 2023 Newsletter



During S.O.A.R. 2023, our campers enjoyed trips to the Witte Museum and Morgan's Wonderland, a glow party, a carnival, crafts, going to the movie theatre, Hawaiian-themed games, a bake-off, and much more! Each day, the kids also enjoyed a healthy lunch prepared in our full-service kitchen

PLUS, pool time, quiet time, and relaxation in our sensory room. Unfortunately, S.O.A.R. & MORE is still considered an enrichment program by the State and is, therefore, ineligible to receive funding. That being so, we must raise \$230,000+ each and every year to continue this important program.



## Joyful Leadership Nurtures Happy Campers!



We are delighted to introduce you to Norma Gaitan (right) and Jessica Estrada (left), our S.O.A.R. & MORE Facilitators. Norma began her career with Mission Road in February 1995, in direct care. Her first experience with S.O.A.R. was in the summer of 1999 as the Community Service Facilitator, which she enjoyed. Activities at the time included baking and cleaning at Ronald McDonald House, crafts, bingo, singing at nursing homes, painting and beautifying local parks, and crafts and board games at the Children's Shelter. Norma's responsibilities were to create fun and appropriate lessons for the children we serve. In 2004, she took over the program as Lead Facilitator and says S.O.A.R. & MORE is her joy! In 2013, Jessica joined the children's residential program direct care team. In 2014, she became a S.O.A.R. camp counselor for our Koalas. After a few years of serving both the residential and S.O.A.R. programs, she joined the S.O.A.R. team as a full-time Facilitator in 2018. Her favorite part of the program is planning and working with

the children on various hands-on activities that help the children express their creativity and personality while having fun! She also enjoys assisting in planning meaningful and rewarding on- and off-campus activities for the kids. Jessica feels blessed to work with a wonderful team and the children.

Seeing their proud and smiling faces when they accomplish something, whether small or big, motivates her to keep coming back. Norma and Jessica are rooting for additional classroom space and staff because more space and staff would allow us to bring in more campers and maintain smaller groups and even more individualized care. S.O.A.R. & MORE provides a wide range of activities to the children from art, education, and sensory activities, to inclusion in the community during off-campus adventures. It's a great program that keeps the children engaged in fun activities at all times!



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# A DAY AT CAMP...



Monday, 7/10/23

Please follow the schedule!

\*All activities at the pavilion.

Time	Smore's Lisa & Genevie	Rock Art Michele & Anthony	Friendship Bracelets Jessica R	Sno-cones Jessica E
9:30-10:00	McGregor	Horse Creek	Ellison	Najim
10:00-10:30	Hors Creek	Ellison	Najim	McGregor
10:30-11:00	Ellison	Najim	McGregor	Horse Creek
11:00-11:30	Najim	McGregor	Horse Creek	Ellison

2:30-4:00

Camp Games

Meet at the gym.

The children we serve have significant limitations in their everyday social and practical skills and need extra support to succeed in school, work, and daily life. At Mission Road, our residential children have been diagnosed with IDD and removed from their families by the State due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The children come from tragic situations, require high-level care, many are dually diagnosed with medical and mental health disorders, and most have been repeatedly unsuccessful in foster care. We help the children entrusted to our care stabilize and gain skills that improve their independence and self-confidence. Children arrive at Mission Road with very little, so in addition to providing them with basic needs, we endeavor to provide them with much more including our Summer Outreach And Recreation (S.O.A.R.) & MORE program.

The adjacent schedule shows our resident children's S.O.A.R. schedule for one day of camp. Schedules and routines help people set expectations and children provided with predictable routines are less likely to exhibit problem behaviors. This is because problem behaviors are often the result of a child's inability to communicate their frustrations or tell someone what they want or need. By providing children with structure and routine, we help reduce instances of behaviors.

S.O.A.R. & MORE keeps our residential kids and children from the community who have been diagnosed with IDD engaged in academics, life skills, recreation, art, and more so that they do not regress in any of the behavioral, academic, social, or physical progress they make. The scope of our Children's Programs provides the consistency, stability, and security that the children need to make progress and succeed. We firmly believe and have seen for ourselves, that in providing our children with familiarity and dedicated care, we not only foster their skills and confidence but also their overall happiness.



## 44th Annual Grand Western Shindig

November 9, 2023, 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM, Mays Family Center at The Witte

**Live Music & Dancing ♦ Silent & Live Auctions ♦ Wine & Whiskey Pull ♦ Dinner & Full Bar**

Grand Western Shindig benefits the children and adults Mission Road Ministries serves.

It's also time for our annual **Help-A-Kid S.O.A.R. Matching Challenge**.

Matching Challenge gifts support S.O.A.R. & MORE in 2024!

Purchase tables and tickets and join our online silent auction:

♦ Visit [missionroadministries.org/shindig/](https://missionroadministries.org/shindig/)

♦ Text "shindig" to 53-555 (New for 2023!)

♦ Follow the QR code shown here

