

Facebook Groups:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFCADRE/>

Appalachian Family Center for Autism and Disability Resources and Education is our general group page, open to families, friends, professionals, and self-advocates. We use it to make announcements, share information and resources, publicize events, and network.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFCADRE.ParentsChat/>

The *AF-CADRE Parent Discussion Group* is where we discuss issues we are dealing with, such as IEP's or puberty. Due to the sometimes sensitive nature of things we chat about, the administrator must approve you to join this group, and it is only open to parents and family members of someone with a disability. No professional is allowed to join unless s/he is also a parent of a child with a disability.

To Contact AF-CADRE:

Website: www.af-cadre.org
Email: info@af-cadre.org
Phone: 740-249-1380
By mail: AF-CADRE
c/o HAVAR, Inc.
P.O. Box 460
Athens, OH 45701

AF-CADRE Parent Group:

Our parent group meets monthly during the school year. It is a safe place for parents and other family members to discuss issues, learn, and have fun with other people who “get it.” Our group is open to family members of a person with a developmental or intellectual disability. We periodically have speakers, trainings, and social events for the group.

Parent Group Meetings:

Day: 2nd Thursday of each month during the school year

Time: 6:30—8:30 pm

Place: Athens Community Center
701 E. State St., Athens

Free child care, provided by Ohio University students, is available by reservation.

Kroger Rewards:

You can support AF-CADRE by using your Kroger Plus card! It doesn't cost you anything and Kroger will donate 5% of your purchases to our group.

To sign up, log in to your account at <https://customer.kroger.com/communityrewards.aspx>
Search for AF-CADRE or 93647 and click to confirm.

AF-CADRE

***Appalachian Family Center
for Autism and Disability
Resources and Education***

Our Mission:

We believe Southeastern Ohio families affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve advocacy and support. We are committed to increasing opportunities by raising public awareness, outreach, education, collaboration, and community events.

AF-CADRE, the Appalachian Family Center for Autism and Disabilities Resources and Education is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit organization.

Our History

The Appalachian Network for Developmental Disabilities (ANDD) dates back to 1971, when a group of local parents and educators started a support and advocacy group. By 1983, the group had become a chapter of The Arc, a national DD organization. In 2010, the group decided to refocus its efforts on southeast Ohio, and left The Arc. Its name was changed to ANDD, but it continued with the same mission and activities as before.

In 2007, another group of parents of children with autism and professionals with a special interest in autism founded the Autism Society of Southeastern Ohio (AS-SEO), a local chapter of the Autism Society of America. AS-SEO provided active advocacy and support, including a summer camp, Summer Fun for Special Kids.

With increased collaboration of ANDD and AS-SEO, and with a realization that this area could not sustain multiple disability organizations, the board members of both groups decided to merge and start a new organization, the Appalachian Family Center for Autism and Disability Resources and Education (AF-CADRE) in 2013. AF-CADRE is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit group.

Our Purpose

AF-CADRE, as its name suggests, would like to be a *cadre* of advocates who genuinely work for the benefit of Appalachian families struggling with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Currently we focus on:

- 1) Providing parent support through Facebook and a face-to-face support group.
- 2) Increasing parent knowledge about the support system.
- 3) Providing summer camp and other events for families.
- 4) Increasing awareness and acceptance in our communities.

As a new organization, we need to increase our own resources and membership. Our board members are always open to suggestions from area professionals, officials, and families.

Summer Fun for Special Kids

summerfun@af-cadre.org

Summer Fun for Special Kids is a 2-week day camp for children age 6 and up with moderate to severe intellectual/developmental disabilities. Campers must have an IEP. Camp will take place June 16-27 at Beacon School in Athens. Tuition is \$200, but is on a sliding scale, based on family income. Financial assistance may be available.

Since its beginning, Summer Fun has served children whose disabilities prevent them from participating in other summer camps. Our kids enjoy swimming, arts and crafts, music, and outdoor play, and there are some fun surprises each summer. Each summer we have a pool party at the Nelsonville Water Park, and a picnic the last day. Our camp director is a special education teacher and the assistant directors are experienced educational aides. In addition, volunteers, mostly OU students, will provide a nearly 1:1 adult-child ratio.

Camp was started in 2008 by AS-SEO, in collaboration with ANDD, Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Athens City Schools, Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center, and HAVAR, Inc. We receive additional funding from groups such as the Athens Foundation, Rotary Club, and Athens Masonic Lodge.

If you would like to support Summer Fun for Special Kids, please send your tax deductible donation to:

Summer Fun for Special Kids
c/o HAVAR, Inc.
P.O. Box 460
Athens, OH 45701

Please make checks payable to AF-CADRE and write "Summer Fun donation" in the memo line.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!