



IGNITE Davidson JUMPSTART Q & A

For Parents to Know:

IGNITE is a one-of-a-kind, unique community center for young adults with a diagnosis of high functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome. To take part in IGNITE's summer program, JUMPSTART, the young adult must fill out an interest form, attend an interview, and then be accepted as a participant. Considerations for acceptance as a participant will be determined by the IGNITE staff based upon factors including desire to participate, ability to attend on a regular basis, and level of social interest and level of independence skills (i.e. can pay for purchases with cash or ATM, walk independently in the community, etc.). We do not accept anyone with aggression, anger, or untreated mental health issues, as we cannot provide one-to-one assistance.

A primary function of IGNITE is to provide a place where members feel comfortable to share ideas, practice skills, and be themselves. Having a say in one's own life fosters self-confidence, independence, and a sense of autonomy that are important to developing a 'sense of self'. We hope that through participation in JUMPSTART this summer, we can introduce your son/daughter to an optional adult program for after high school and provide them with the opportunity to meet other high school students.

We hope that if connections between members are positive and friendships are made, that parents will support opportunities for those individuals to get together outside of program time. If you would like suggestions in arranging for activities between individual participants, please talk to the staff. If you have additional questions, you are welcome to contact the director. We hope your child enjoys being a participant of IGNITE's summer program, JUMPSTART.

What's the schedule? A JUMPSTART membership will be offered for 10 weeks in the summer. IGNITE Davidson operates 35 hours per week with day and evening hours available, and two weekend activities per month. We offer a variety of skill building groups, social groups, and leisure groups throughout the week. The participant can come to the groups they want or need to come to. We will be closed 1 week over the 4th of July holiday for a statewide IGNITE staff meeting.

What if I want to join the program after the summer? If you would like to join IGNITE's young adult membership upon graduation from high school, please reach out to the director. In order to join the young adult program, you must be graduated with a regular diploma, be 18 years old, and your own legal guardian.

What COVID-19 precautions are you taking? Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuously tracking information from local, state, and national public health authorities and creating new resources to support you and your family. We are currently offering virtual and in-person services while adhering to the governor's latest executive order and CDC recommendations.