



IGNITE Raleigh 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 Raleigh operates 20 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. The fee for the 10-week summer program is \$500.00.

How do I make the payment? Once accepted, you will receive an invoice for payment. Payments are due by the 1st day of participation.

The semester started in June but I am being accepted in July, do I still owe \$500 for the Summer semester? No. Tuition is pro-rated. IGNITE Raleigh offers rolling enrollment, meaning openings are filled as they become available.

What if I can only come 2 days a week? Is my tuition adjusted? No, the fee is \$500 per summer semester and you can choose to come for everything offered or for the days and times that meet your needs and schedule. We encourage members to take advantage of as many of the activities as possible.

If I am no longer able to attend IGNITE Raleigh, or decide to discontinue my membership, what do I need to do? If you leave the program, you must submit in writing (email or letter) that you wish to end your membership. Once the letter is received, your last day of membership will be the last day of that month. Session fees are non-refundable. If you decide you want to rejoin IGNITE in the future, you must re-apply, and may be put on the waiting list for admittance. 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.

Can I apply for a scholarship? The Autism Society of North Carolina has limited funding to support scholarships for IGNITE. Scholarship awards are based on financial need and funds available.

What happens if I miss a payment? Please notify the program if your payment will be late. We must receive notice in advance of missed payments to maintain memberships.

Are there any additional fees? Yes. Part of the IGNITE experience includes activities in the community (going out to dinner, movies, etc.). Members are expected to pay for their own meals and activities in the community. Our goal is to have free or low-cost activities twice per month. However, based on the members' interests, the activity costs may be up to \$20. If an activity exceeds \$15, every effort will be made to keep the other activity that month free or very low cost.

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.