

**2019 Children's Day at the Capitol**  
**January 15, 2019**  
**Information Sheet**

## **Agenda**

9:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Organizations arrive to set up booths

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Booths are set up in Rotunda of Capitol. Participants are encouraged to watch legislative committees and session throughout the day; however, be mindful that a staffed booth will draw more visitors.

Noon – Mary Beth Holzwarth will speak briefly about her personal story of resiliency and her advocacy as a SD ACEs and Resiliency Trainer. Lunch will be served immediately following. Lunch is FREE and open to the public.

4:30 PM – Attendees of Children's Day is invited, along with the general public, to attend a FREE screening of the film RESILIENCE, a documentary that delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the birth of a new movement to treat and prevent Toxic Stress. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We2BqmjHN0k>

## **Children's Day FAQs**

### **What is the purpose of Children's Day at the Capitol?**

To use grassroots advocacy to educate legislators, lobbyists and the public on issues concerning child welfare in South Dakota. Children's Day at the Capitol is providing a specific time for you to join your colleagues and cohorts in educating our state's legislators. By joining together, participants may reach a larger group of people while minimizing costs and resources for individual organizations.

### **Who is hosting Children's Day at the Capitol?**

The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) is proud to partner with the following sponsors on this year's event:

- Child Advocacy Centers of South Dakota,
- Children's Home Society of South Dakota, and
- Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center at Sanford.

### **What to expect.**

*Dress* – It is appropriate to wear business attire during your visit to the Capitol. You may also want to wear clothing items that represent your organization, such as a jacket, pin or vest with your organization's logo. We are encouraging participants to wear **royal blue**, which represents child abuse awareness.

*Parking* – Parking is at a premium around the Capitol. There is a large parking area on the north side of the Capitol, but it fills up quickly. You are likely to end up parking along one of the side streets and walking a few blocks to the Capitol.

*Inside the Capitol* – The Legislature does its work on the third and fourth floors of the Capitol. Most of the committee rooms and the chamber galleries are located on the fourth floor. The House and Senate Chambers and the Legislative Research Council office are located on the third floor. Several stairways and elevators are available for your use. The rotunda of the Capitol is on the second floor.

*Booth Set-Up* – 12 tables will be located in the Capitol rotunda for booths. Each organization that reserved a booth will have a 6-foot table and two chairs provided. Common table displays include a table cloth or organizational cloth to cover the table, handouts with information about your organization, posters or other large presentation materials, and organizational advertising information or swag to hand out. Displays or exhibits must be self-supporting and may not be leaned against or attached to any part of the building. Table displays that are interactive or provide information for a person to take with them tend to be more popular. *If you need electricity for your table display, please let CPCM know immediately.*

*Visitors* – Legislators, lobbyists, government employees and members of the public are free to walk through the Capitol rotunda and view the booths/table displays. This is a come and go event, with high traffic times occurring between legislative committee meetings and over the lunch hour. Expect for approximately 250 people to walk by throughout the day.

*Lunch* – Lunch will be catered into the rotunda, following the Capitol’s rules for serving meals during legislative session. The lunch will be served buffet style, in a casual atmosphere. The lunch is available for legislators, lobbyists, government employees and members of the public. Approximately 300 people are expected for the lunch over the noon hour. *Note: There is very little seating in the rotunda of the Capitol. A few chairs will be available but many individuals eat while standing or take their food to their desks.*

*Program* – A short program will occur at 12:00 PM for anyone present at that time. The program will include a speaker and a thank you to those participating in Children’s Day at the Capitol.

## **Advocacy & Legislative Session**

### **What is grassroots advocacy?**

As stated by LeadingAge, “grassroots advocacy is the systematic effort to affect public policy by influencing the views of policy-makers whether in a state legislature, city council, government agency, or anywhere decisions are made that affect citizens and businesses.”

### **Why is grassroots advocacy important?**

To have a real impact on the policy decisions made in Pierre, advocacy must be consistent and come from those working in the front line on the issues. Building relationships, offering education, and empowering stakeholders around a common theme or message can yield positive results on community leaders and policy makers.

**Who are my legislators?**

You can find out who your legislators are by visiting the Legislative Research Council [website](#).

**What legislation is CPCM supporting?**

As of now, CPCM does not have legislative agenda items for the 2019 Legislative Session. The CPCM board will watch for all bills dealing with child welfare and address any concerns or support of the bills, as appropriate, as they are identified.

For information about legislation from other organizations, please contact their representatives directly.

**If my organization is not supporting legislative agenda items this year, is it still important for me to participate in Children's Day at the Capitol?**

Yes! Effective grassroots advocacy is essential to making impactful policy change. The public education on the importance of your group's mission should happen long before you have a legislative agenda. Children's Day at the Capitol is an important time to educate our legislators on the good work impacting South Dakota children that is being done every day.

**What should I say to my legislators?**

- Organize your group's thoughts and key points. It is best to identify your mission and your top priorities when providing information. Give brief and informative talking points to your legislators.
- Always give factual data that can be referenced or cited, and be prepared to provide that additional information if asked to support your position.
- Remember, your message is important. You are on the front lines of your issues and you are not a paid lobbyist.
- Try to make your information and story relevant to those that are hearing it.
- Stay in regular contact with your legislators. As new information becomes available, let your legislator know about it. It is the legislator's job to know what is going on in their districts.

**Who is required to register as a lobbyist with the Secretary of State's office?**

Paid lobbyists and lobbyists for many government organizations are required to register as a lobbyist with the Secretary of State's office (SDCL 2-12-1 and SDCL 2-12-7.1). Citizens have the right to appear as a witness before any legislative committee or any board, commission, or committee of the state government to speak in their own name, in their own or in the public interest. Citizens appearing and speaking in their own interests are not required to register as a lobbyist (SDCL 2-12-14). To find more information on the registration requirements for lobbyists, visit the South Dakota Secretary of State's [webpage](#).

**Where can I learn more about the history and the rules of the South Dakota Legislative Session?**

The [website](#) for the SD legislature has a wealth of information that is helpful for those learning about South Dakota’s legislative history.

**How do I follow legislation?**

[Legislation updates](#) are posted on the Legislative Research Council website.

Use the [Legislative Research Council web site](#) to review what will be taking place during the time you spend at the Capitol. To find committee agendas, click on “Current Legislative Session” and then on “Chamber or Committee”. From there, you can select the committee of interest to you. Click on “Detail” to see where the committee meets and when. Click on “Agenda” to find the list of bills that will be heard at a particular meeting. Agendas are generally posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

**What happens each day during legislative session?**

Standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives meet each day of session. Most committee meetings begin at either 7:45 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. and last for two hours. The Senators and Representatives convene in their respective chambers at 2 p.m. each afternoon for their daily sessions.

Advocacy groups can reserve the lobby of the House or the Senate, and the Capitol rotunda to serve snacks or meals to members of the legislature, state employees, lobbyists and other visitors to the Capitol throughout the day. The reservations are made on a first come first serve basis. The advocacy groups must follow the rules and regulations for hosting events at the Capitol. Busy times for visitors to the lobbies or rotunda are between committee meetings in the morning and during the lunch hour.

**How does an idea become a law?**

To find out more on how an idea becomes a law, visit:

<http://www.sdlegislature.gov/docs/studentpage/idealaw.pdf>

**Contact Information**

If you have additional information, contact **Cassie** in the CPCM office at:

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