In the 2018/2019 DSAGNO budget, funds have been earmarked for stipends, for 20 families to attend the 2019 National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) conference. Each of the 20 families will be given a, maximum, stipend of $1,500 that can be used only for: transportation, conference registration and hotel expenses (food and drinks are not covered by the stipends). To apply for a DSAGNO stipend, those applying must have a family member with Down syndrome.

Stipend are not meant to cover the total cost, but to incentivize families to attend and, significantly, reduce their cost. The conference will be held in July 2019 at a location to be announced.

In order for members to be eligible, the guidelines are being identified, in enough time to meet the guidelines which are identified below. For the period of January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018:

Either

   Fundraising a minimum of $1,500
      o this can be items donated to the Buddy Walk 2018 Silent Auction or the Buddy Wall Team fundraising
      o items donated for the 2018 DSAGNO Christmas Party
      o items donated for DSAGNO athletic events

Or

   Worked at a DSAGNO event for, a minimum of 10 hours (attendance at the Buddy Walk does not qualify as working the DSAGNO event)
      Pre Buddy Walk Preparation
         o Setup
         o Teardown
         o During the event (does not include hosting a booth for another organization)

Or a combination of the two methods above to equate to 100% (example: 60% of $1,500 is $900 leaving 40% to be raised through hours which would be 4 hours)
DSAGNO STIPEND GUIDELINES

2019 NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS (NDSC)

Suggestions for other ways to earn 10 work hours are:

- Telephone calls to remind members about upcoming events
- Assisting/coordinating at the 2018 Christmas Party
- Self-advocate participation and work for the Self-Advocate Advisory Committee (SAAC)
- Being a committee chair or member
- Assisting at DSAGNO membership meetings
- Family member (teenager or adult) volunteering for child care at DSAGNO membership meeting

Please keep documentation of either fundraising or work effort as these will need to accompany each application for a stipend. Documentation should be validated by a DSAGNO board member’s signature.

The DSAGNO Board will review each application to ensure that all guidelines have been met. If more than 20 families apply and have, successfully, met all the guidelines, either the DSAGNO Board will decide to increase the number of families who are able to attend or a lottery will be conducted to select the 20 families. Successful applicants will be notified at the end of February 2019 and stipends will be distributed after families have attended the conference and submitted receipts for: transportation, conference registration and hotel rooms. No total family reimbursement will exceed $1,500, regardless, of the family's total expenses.

DSAGNO will not be responsible for any cancellation fees.

Prior to the end of 2019, all families who received stipends and attended the NDSC conference will need to present and share their experiences at one of the monthly DSAGNO membership meetings.

DSAGNO will send a notification in early January 2019 calling for stipend applications for the 2019 NDSC conference. The NDSC conference is a life changing experience that families will want to attend year after year. Please take advantage of this early notification and ensure your family is eligible for this exciting experience.