

# GEM STATE NEWS



SUMMER 2025 EDITION (May - August) [www.gsdcdda.com](http://www.gsdcdda.com)



Pic by Warren Umoh, for Unsplash.com

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## Hello Summer!

Participants from MSS enjoying the day. Research shows group activities like arts & crafts, puzzles, and games build social, physical, and mental acuity.

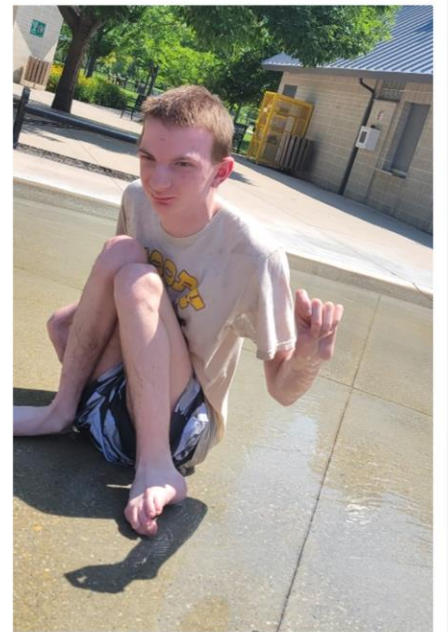
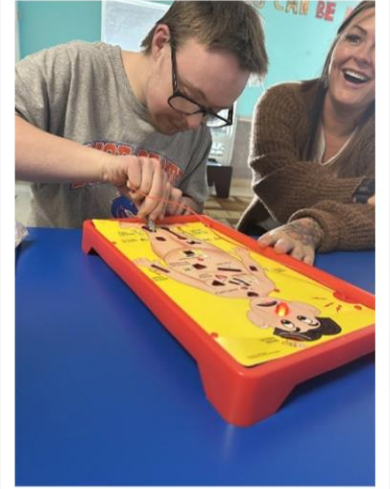
This year, we were sporting our "Everyone Is Welcome" gear and creating a positive and supportive atmosphere. We're celebrating the graduation of a participant. Our focus was working on fine motor skills through operation, decorating and enjoying cupcakes for a participant birthday. Wearing our "astronaut helmet" – the theme this Summer was space. Completion of a puzzle JM worked on for about a month! Good times at Discovery Park and splash pad.





# Hello Summer!

Background Photo by Kaizen Nguyễn for Unsplash.com





Hello Summer!





## Sand Art

NA engaged in a lot of Summer activities, both at the center and out in the community. The Sand Art project was one of their favorites. Allowing them to increase their team-building skills, as well as strengthen their self-esteem, awareness of physical space, and hand-eye coordination.

Background photo provided by Luis Benito for Unsplash.com



# A Note to Parents:

Miss Amazing is not a typical pageant—it's a celebration. It's about building confidence, community, and connection for girls and women with disabilities, ages 5 and up. Whether your child uses a wheelchair, communicates non-verbally, has limited attention, or displays behaviors at times—they are absolutely welcome.

We don't expect anyone to be perfect—we just want them to be themselves. Every participant is supported by a one-on-one buddy who's trained to assist with transitions, communication, and helping your child feel safe and celebrated throughout the experience.

If you're worried that your child might not "do well" in a setting like this, please know: we are prepared and we are flexible. We work with each family to understand your child's unique needs and make sure they're supported at every step. Whether they want to sing, dance, wave, or just walk across the stage and smile—we will cheer them on just the same.

The beauty of Miss Amazing is that every girl gets her moment to shine—on her own terms. There's no pressure, no judgment, and no one-size-fits-all expectations.

Our team has experience supporting participants with a wide range of disabilities and behaviors. We believe every girl deserves a space where she is celebrated for exactly who she is.

So if you're on the fence or have specific concerns, we'd love to hear them. Let's talk through what would help your child feel comfortable, because this event could be such a joyful and empowering experience for both of you.

You don't have to have it all figured out—we're here to help every step of the way!



IDAHO  
MISS *Amazing*

# HOW TO REGISTER

FOR THE AMPLIFY EVENT  
OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

**01.**  
**Scan the QR Code**  
Find the QR code on this poster or visit our website.

**02.**  
**Fill Out the Registration Form**  
Enter your name, contact info, and upload any needed info.

**03.**  
**Watch for info Emails**  
Check your email for the confirmation and event information.

**04.**  
**Show Up & Shine!**  
Plan for a great event to make friends, build confidence and have an AMAZING time!

OPEN TO GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AGES 5-UP. REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15TH.

For more information, visit:  
[www.missamazing.org](http://www.missamazing.org)

SCAN ME! >>>




IDAHO  
MISS *Amazing*

# HOW TO VOLUNTEER

FOR THE AMPLIFY EVENT  
OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

**01.**  
**Scan the QR Code**  
Find the QR code on this poster or visit our website.

**02.**  
**Fill Out the Registration Form**  
Enter your name, contact info, and select volunteer category.

**03.**  
**Watch for info Emails**  
Check your email for the confirmation and event information.

**04.**  
**Show Up & Shine!**  
Plan for a great event to make a difference and have an AMAZING time!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PARTICIPANT BUDDIES, RIGHT HAND MEN, HELPING HANDS AND SET UP/TEAR DOWN CREWS. REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15TH.

For more information, visit:  
[www.missamazing.org](http://www.missamazing.org)

SCAN ME! >>>




Idaho Miss Amazing [Miss Amazing](https://www.missamazing.org)

Providing opportunities for girls and women with disabilities across Idaho to build self-esteem.

208-649-6266 | [id@missamazing.org](mailto:id@missamazing.org)



Video link: [Experience Something Amazing : Miss Amazing](https://www.missamazing.org/experience-something-amazing)

# Disability Etiquette

## [Disability Terminology: Etiquette and Choosing the Right Words](#)

### **What's the difference between identity-first and person-first language?**

If you regularly interact with a person in the disability community, it may be a good idea to inquire about their individual preference and use that going forward. This way you can better communicate with them.

Excessively praising a person with a disability can be insulting because it implies that you have low expectations of them. though it may seem complimentary, it can sound condescending to a person who is simply trying to live their life just like anybody else. Of course, praise is still warranted for remarkable accomplishments, just as it would be for a person without disabilities. However, it may be inappropriate to praise someone for, say, navigating public transportation in a wheelchair. Yes, it is a challenge, but it may also be part of their daily life and something they are accustomed to.

### **Disability terminology in practice**

Here is how these terms work in practice, according to [The National Disability Authority](#) and [The National Center on Disability and Journalism](#):

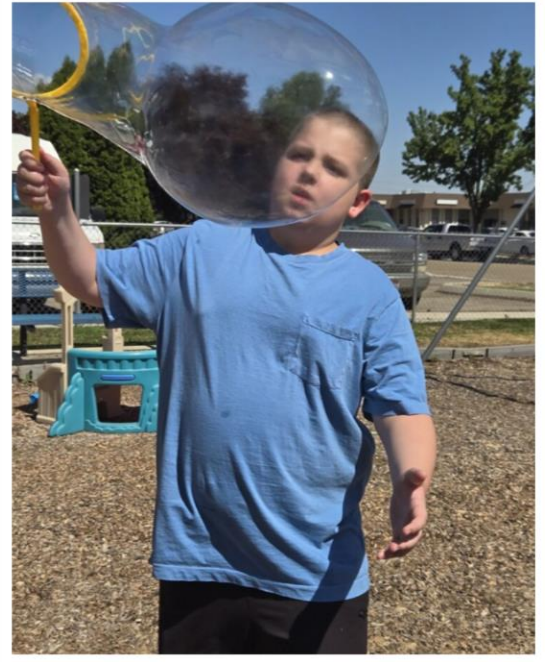
Person-First	Identity-First	Not Recommended
person with a disability	disabled person	the disabled, cripple, victim, spastic, spaz, handicapped, the handicapped, abnormal, dumb/deaf-mute, defect, defective, midget, or vegetable
person with an intellectual disability	intellectually-disabled person	mental handicap, mentally retarded, or mentally handicapped
person with a mental health disability	mentally-disabled person	mad, crazy, schizo, schizophrenic, insane, nuts, psycho, psychotic, demented, senile, loony, or lunatic
person who uses a wheelchair	wheelchair user	wheelchair-bound or confined to a wheelchair
has... (diagnosis)	adjective form of diagnosis (i.e. 'autistic') person	suffers from... afflicted with... stricken with... or victim of...
person without a disability	not disabled or non-disabled	normal



## NSS Summer Pics

Background pic by Aleksandr Eremin for Unsplash.com

When we're together, we find ways to have fun at the center and around our community. Our activities build social skills, self-esteem, and physical exercise. Take a look at what we've been doing this Summer.





## NSS Summer Pics





## NSS Summer Pics





## Motivation is Key

Background photo by Andrew Pons for Unsplash.com

# Believe in Yourself







# Direct Support Professional Week September 7 -13, 2025



Gem State Developmental center



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!



# AUTUMN

## WORD SEARCH



### WORD LIST

ACORN  
 AUTUMN  
 BONFIRE  
 BRISK  
 CIDER  
 CORN  
 CRISP  
 EQUINOX  
 FALL  
 FESTIVAL  
 FOLIAGE  
 FOOTBALL  
 GOURD  
 HALLOWEEN  
 HARVEST  
 HAYSTACK  
 JACKET  
 LEAVES  
 NOVEMBER  
 OCTOBER  
 PINE CONE  
 PUMPKIN  
 SCHOOL  
 SEPTEMBER  
 SQUASH  
 SWEATER  
 THANKSGIVING  
 TREES

I	C	K	K	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	T	D
X	W	D	P	S	I	R	C	Q	F	H	N	C
R	E	G	A	I	L	O	F	Y	I	C	C	P
O	H	A	Y	S	T	A	C	K	C	U	I	R
O	S	P	E	A	S	K	P	D	W	D	E	P
V	C	G	I	Y	S	T	I	W	Z	B	B	C
T	H	T	N	N	R	B	F	Y	M	O	N	P
H	O	Z	O	E	E	S	Y	E	V	X	R	W
A	O	I	E	B	E	C	T	V	H	Z	O	O
N	L	S	J	V	E	P	O	K	Z	X	C	G
K	V	Q	A	W	E	R	I	N	F	H	B	K
S	L	E	K	S	D	Y	G	P	E	A	P	S
G	L	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	H	L	F	M
I	A	T	E	K	C	A	J	H	N	L	N	A
V	F	G	O	U	R	D	K	Y	O	O	C	F
I	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	V	W	J	T
N	D	S	Q	U	A	S	H	V	E	E	K	S
G	R	J	G	P	D	Z	Z	I	M	E	V	E
A	I	E	X	Z	U	A	K	X	B	N	D	V
W	T	Q	D	Q	F	M	N	E	E	V	K	R
N	K	B	A	I	F	K	P	M	R	X	W	A
R	Z	D	D	Q	C	J	S	K	U	A	U	H
O	X	X	D	K	H	K	A	I	I	T	G	I
C	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	R	N	U	M
A	K	L	X	O	N	I	U	Q	E	B	L	A

