



Michigan Autism Conference

Parent Scholarship Application



Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan has partnered with the Michigan Autism Conference (MAC) to offer a limited number of Parent Scholarships to cover the conference registration fee for a single conference attendee. Please note: all parents interested in attending the conference must submit their own application to be considered for funding. This scholarship does not include Wednesday conference workshops, lodging, travel, or meals.

Thursday, October 12 & Friday, October 13
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Mission

The mission of the Michigan Autism Conference is to disseminate information and training on evidence-based practice to parents and professionals who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorder in order to increase functional skill development and decrease behavioral excesses to ensure individuals with autism can live enriched high quality lives. This conference is geared to parents, educators, mental health professionals, and practitioners working with individuals with autism.

Lodging and Accommodations

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for the conference Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites, located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Please contact the hotel directly at (800)-395-7046 or (269)-343-3333 to make reservations. To make a reservation at the conference rate you must state that your reservation is for the Michigan Autism Conference.

Sponsor and Scholarship Winner Photo

Applicants receiving a Parent Scholarship for the 2017 conference are invited to meet the scholarship sponsors and to take a photo as a group at the conference. This photo is scheduled for 12:05 p.m. on Friday, October 13 during the scheduled lunch break outside the Kalamazoo Room in the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites.

Application Timeline

The timeline for application review and scholarship selection is as follows:

- **Deadline for application submission: Friday, September 8, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.**
- Preliminary application review: Monday, September 11, 2017
- Second application review by Scholarship Committee: Wednesday, September 13, 2017
- Decision to Parent Scholarship applicants: Friday, September 15, 2017



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Who is Parent to Parent?

The Parent Scholarship Program is administered by Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan. Parent to Parent is a non-profit community organization that supports families of children with developmental disabilities and special needs. This organization offers services at no cost to families who have children with disabilities or special needs. Parent to Parent has graciously taken over the Parent Scholarship application process, and will provide a limited number of scholarships to parents who apply. Scholarships will cover the cost of registration for one parent or caregiver attending the conference. Parent to Parent understands that in order to give our children the best possible care, we need to have relevant and current information. Parent to Parent also knows that we often get the most helpful tips by talking with other parents and professionals who have experienced similar situations or who are on the same journey.

Parent Scholarship Program Checklist of Completion

Please check each of the following when these are completed.

Applicant Information (Page 3)

Application Essay (Page 4)

Signature (Page 4)

Instructions for Application Submission:

Please submit all parts of your application to:

Parent to Parent of SWMI

ATTN: MAC Scholarship

445 W Michigan Ave, Suite 102

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Or via email to Jill@p2pswmi.org—Subject Line: MAC Scholarship



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Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Professional affiliation: _____

How should we contact you with scholarship information and application updates? (Check one)

Primary Phone Email

How many days are you able to attend the conference if you receive a scholarship? (Check one)

Two Days (Both Thursday and Friday)

One day (Please circle one: Thursday OR Friday)

How did you hear about the Parent Scholarship Program? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous scholarship winner (funded) | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous scholarship applicant (unfunded) | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous conference attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> MAC website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Another conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

If you were awarded this scholarship, would travel be a barrier to your attendance?

Yes No

If you were awarded this scholarship, would your work schedule be a barrier to your attendance?

Yes No



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Application Essay

Please write a 250 to 500-word essay detailing the reason you are applying to attend the 2017 Michigan Autism Conference. Please note: each individual parent must submit an application for a Parent Scholarship to be considered for funding. A single essay may be submitted for a couple by one parent if the first and last name of each applicant is clearly stated in the application essay.

Please include the following information:

- Tell us about your family
- How will this scholarship benefit you and your family?
- Why do you want to apply?

Application Criteria

To assist in your application submission, please review the criteria (listed below) that will be taken into consideration by the Scholarship Committee when determining awardees. Please consider these criteria when completing reviewing the completeness of your application and your application essay.

- The application was submitted by the deadline (Friday, September 8, 2017 by 5 p.m.)
- The application was fully completed with all contact information included
- The applicant has the means to attend the conference (lodging and work schedules will not be barriers to attend the conference)
- The applicant has not previously received support from the Parent Scholarship Program (First-time applicants may be given priority if a high volume of applications is received)
- The applicant is a parent or caregiver of a child or children diagnosed with autism
- The severity of behavioral issues for the child or children diagnosed with autism

Signature

Please read carefully and sign prior to submission

I affirm that the above information, which I have provided, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I consent that if selected as a scholarship winner, my picture may be taken and used to promote the Parent Scholarship Program. I understand that late or incomplete submissions will not be considered for the scholarship. I also confirm that if granted a scholarship, I may be asked to write up a brief summary or be interviewed about my experience and knowledge gained from attending the conference.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____