



2015 Request for National Down Syndrome Congress Convention Reimbursement

This year's award will support individuals, in part, to attend the 43rd Annual National Down Syndrome Congress Convention, being held June 25-28, 2015 in Phoenix, Arizona (full details at <http://convention.ndsccenter.org/>).

The National Down Syndrome Congress Convention provides wonderful opportunities for parents, young adults, educators and health professionals to benefit from educational sessions, social support and the latest medical/research news. The NDSC Convention also fosters new and lasting friendships which can improve the quality of life by improving individuals' emotional functioning and decreasing strain on the family.

Because the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society's board of directors believes that our members benefit from attending this conference, the board has authorized the Association to provide some scholarship money. The scholarship amount will be determined by available budget funds and by the number of accepted applications. This scholarship gift can help your family cover some conference expenses such as registration, airfare, transportation, meals and incidentals. You are responsible for making any hotel and airline reservations and conference registrations. *Priority will be given to families that have not received assistance in the past. If additional funding is available, consideration will then be given to families who have received scholarships in the past; these scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.*

The board of directors believes it is appropriate to use Association funds for individual conference attendance when the Association will benefit by attendees sharing what they have learned with other members of the Association. Therefore, scholarships to conferences will be awarded to families or young adults who desire to learn more about Down syndrome and are willing to become active Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society members.

Following the conference, scholarship recipients will be asked to submit a brief report to The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society, describing your family's experiences at the conference. Your report should reflect that your family attended the conference sessions; it may include copies of materials to be included in our library and may be in oral or written format. Report suggestions: you may write a newsletter article, speak at a workshop, make a presentation to the board of directors, or provide a written report for board members.

Purpose

- To encourage individuals with Down syndrome and their families to attend and learn from educational/research conference.

How can the funds be used?

- Funds may be used to assist with costs associated with conference attendance including registration, transportation and lodging.

Who Can Apply?

- An individual with Down syndrome who is attending the Youth and Adult Conference (age 15 or above, defined as a self advocate)
- A parent or legal guardian of an individual with Down syndrome
- An immediate family member or personal assistant of someone with Down syndrome

Please note that in all categories, individuals who are employed by an agency are not eligible for funds related to their employment.

Where Do I Apply?

Complete the application form and mail it to the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society PO BOX 6455, Paris, TX 75461 or by email to info@rrvdss.org

Deadline for 2015 applications: May 4, 2015

Applicants will be notified of awards no later than May 8, 2015.

How Much Can I Apply For?

In order to extend grants to as many families as possible, this partial reimbursement will pay for:

- two (2) General Convention Individual Registration Fees (\$240) **and** one hotel room for up to three (3) nights (up to \$525)

OR

- one (1) Youth / Adult with Down Syndrome (\$85) one (1) General Convention Family (up to 3 people) Registration Fee (\$260) **and** one (1) hotel room for up to three (3) nights (up to \$525)

OR

- one (1) Kids Camp Registration Fee (\$150) two (2) General Convention Individual Registration Fee (\$240) **and** one hotel room for up to three (3) nights (up to \$525)

*** This is a maximum amount. All applicants may not be awarded the full amount.**

When will I receive my reimbursement?

The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society *must reimburse for actual expenses*. This means that RRVDSS cannot authorize a check before conference participation. **Proof of registration for event is required.** Receipts for reimbursement must be submitted within 30 days of the conference. Every effort will be made to mail reimbursement checks within two weeks of receipt of reimbursement request.

All applications are subject to the availability of funds.

Total reimbursement for any award will not exceed \$860.00 Only one application per household will be accepted. If more than one application is submitted, they will all be voided. Reimbursement is not available, nor intended to pay for attendance of additional family members, Pre-Conference Registration, meal plans, banquet tickets, or for the National Down Syndrome Congress membership fees.

Please type your information or handwrite legibly! Thanks

Your Name		
Mailing Address		
Phone Number	Home	Cell
Email Address		
Are you receiving the RRVDSS newsletter?	Yes	No
Name of individual with Down syndrome		
Relationship to individual with Down syndrome		
Birthdate of individual with Down syndrome	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Age

Please check the box corresponding to the scholarship for which you are applying.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Two (2) General Convention Individual Registration Fees and one (1) hotel room for up to three (3) nights
<input type="checkbox"/>	One (1) Youth & Adult One registration fee (1) General Convention Family (up to 3 people) Registration Fee and one (1) hotel room for up to three (3) nights
<input type="checkbox"/>	One (1) Kid's Camp Registration Fee two (2) General Convention Individual Registration Fees and one (1) hotel room for up to three (3) nights

Financial assistance is requested for:

Registration	\$ _____	Transportation	\$ _____
Lodging	\$ _____	Other (Specify)	\$ _____

Total Requested: \$ _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. There is significant value gained from attending and participating in the NDSC Convention and we need to ensure that our reimbursement recipients will share that knowledge with the RRVDSS Community. In exchange for this reimbursement, it is expected that you will commit to a minimum of ten (10) volunteer hours for RRVDSS over the next year (at least four (4) volunteer hours must be completed prior to June 25, 2015). There are a number of volunteer opportunities; please read some of the options below and indicate which ones you will commit to by checking each box that applies.

- Write an article for the RRVDSS newsletter
- Speak at a RRVDSS event
- Volunteer for a RRVDSS event (World Down Syndrome Day, Snowflakes & Diamonds Gala, Workshop, Serve on a committee, etc.)
- Serve on the 2015 REACH Rally committee

a. Please note below your additional ideas on ways to serve:

b. How will you share the knowledge you gain from attending the conference?

2. In what ways have you participated in past RRVDSS activities?
3. Have you ever attended the NDSC Convention? If so, when?
4. What issues or topics are you interested in learning about at the Convention?
5. Will you be seeking answers to any specific questions that you now have about an issue or issues relating to Down syndrome? If so, what are those questions?

6. Describe strengths you and/or your family members have that could contribute to future events/functions.

Other Comments:

Signature: _____

Date: _____