



Dreams Take Flight Information Letter

We're excited to announce that five children with epilepsy have the opportunity to participate in an all-expenses paid trip to Disneyland. This initiative is courtesy of Dreams Take Flight, a national non-profit organization consisting of Air Canada volunteers. Each year they provide a trip to, "the happiest place on earth," for children with medical conditions, disabilities, and/or financial needs. They have taken over 2000 kids to Disneyland in the last 19 years. More information is available from their website at: www.dreamstakeflight.ca

This is an amazing opportunity for kids with epilepsy to have fun, as well as, develop friendships and fond memories. It is the fourth year that the BC Epilepsy Society has been selected as one of the participating agencies.

The trip to Disneyland is on Tuesday, October 19th. The BC Epilepsy Society will be holding a draw to determine the five children who will be attending. The deadline to submit an application for the draw is Monday, August 23rd.

To attend, the guidelines from Dreams Take Flight stipulate that children must be:

- Between 6-10 years old on October 19th, 2010.
- Have never been to a Disney theme park.
- Have Canadian citizenship.
- Have a valid Canadian passport or birth certificate.
- Be medically stable to travel.

Medical staff, and those experienced in working with children with special needs will be accompanying the group. There is an approximately one-on-one ratio of staff to children. This includes staff from the BC Epilepsy Society. Special needs accommodations, medical services, and travel insurance are also provided.

To enter the draw, please fax or mail the Dreams Take Flight Child Application Form and proof of current BC Epilepsy Society membership to our office and call to confirm receipt of the forms. These documents are available from our office, or our website at www.bcepilepsy.com

For more information, please contact Elvira Balakshin at 604-875-6704 or at outreach@bcepilepsy.com. She is the BC Epilepsy Society representative that will be accompanying the children on this trip. Frequently asked questions are answered on the next page.

BC Epilepsy Society contact information:

Address: #510 - 999 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia
V5Z 1K5

Phone: 604-875-6704

Fax: 604-875-0617

Email: outreach@bcepilepsy.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child need to bring money?

No. Please do not send any money, toys, or cameras with your child. The children will receive toys, a disposable camera, and spending money on the day.

What time does the flight arrive and return?

Check in for the flight begins at 4:30 am. Check in must be complete by 5:30 am. The flight will be leaving the Air Canada Hangar at 6:00 am sharp. The plane will return approximately between 10:30 pm and 11:00 pm.

How long will the children be at Disneyland?

The kids are at Disneyland from about 10:30 am to 6:45 pm. Upon arrival in Los Angeles we will be boarding motor coaches that will take us to Disneyland. The ride from Los Angeles to Anaheim takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

How many other people are attending?

Dreams Take Flight will be taking 125 children, as well as 70-80 escorts from Vancouver. In Los Angeles, we will be met by another 40-50 escorts. The ratio of adults to children is approx. one-on-one. The 125 children are divided into groups of five from each agency (for example, the BC Epilepsy Society). Each group stays together for the entire day.

Do children from outside the Lower Mainland qualify?

Yes. We will accept applications from all over BC.

What is the Dreams Take Flight “Meet and Greet” Information Meeting?

This meeting will introduce parents and the children to the escorts and other families, provide information from Air Canada personnel, and complete any necessary paperwork. It is mandatory for all children, as well as, at least one of their parents/guardians to attend this meeting. It will be held on Sunday, September 26th in Richmond between 10 am to noon. The meeting location and directions will be given to parents as soon as they are available.

What if my child gets ill?

There will be a doctor on the flight for medical emergencies. Additional health care and care providers will also be present on the flight and at Disneyland. However, all children attending should currently be medically stable enough to make it through this adventurous day. Children will be covered by travel insurance, but the Dreams Take Flight group insurance policy states that it will not cover any pre-existing health condition(s), unless condition(s) have been stable for 30 days prior to the flight (for example, no seizures for 30 days prior to the flight).

What should my child be wearing?

October mornings can be chilly in Vancouver. Your child should have a change of clothes so they can change into shorts once the flight arrives in California. Every child will be given a t-shirt and hat at check in that they must wear all day long. Please make sure the child has a pair of comfortable shoes.

What about breaks?

The children will have lots of breaks throughout the day to eat, rest, and use the washroom.

How will food be provided?

Breakfast will be served on the flight to Los Angeles, and snacks will be available, prior to the flight at the airport hanger. Lunch is provided at Disneyland, as well as snacks during the day. Dinner is provided on the flight back to Vancouver. Please make sure you indicate any type of food allergies your child may have on the medical history form for necessary meal accommodations.