What to Expect

This sibling retreat is a weekend event for transition age students with disabilities and their siblings. A variety of topics about transition will be discussed. Young adults and their siblings will also enjoy recreational and leisure activities. There will also be opportunities to learn from one another, share experiences and gain support.

"Siblings will be in the lives of family members with disabilities longer than anyone. Brothers and sisters will typically be there after parents are gone and special education services are a distant memory. Theirs is a relationship that can easily exceed 65 years. When provided with support and information, these brothers and sisters can help their siblings with disabilities live dignified lives from childhood to their senior years."

–National Sibling Leadership Network

Co-facilitators

Sarah Hall, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Inclusive Services and Exceptional Learners at the Columbus Center of Ashland University. She teaches graduate courses in special education, communication and collaboration, transition, and behavior management.

Tom Fish, PhD, LISW is the Director of Social Work and Family Support Services at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center on Disabilities. He directs projects dealing with autism, community inclusion, adult literacy, and community service. He is a founding member of the National Sibling Leadership Network.

Sponsored by:

Ohio SIBS
Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Ohio State University
NISONGER CENTER

SIBS LOOKING FORWARD

A Weekend Retreat About Transition
April 10-12, 2015
When and Where?
The retreat will be held on **Friday April 10 until Sunday April 12** at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Families are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children at the camp by 5pm Friday on the 10th and at noon on Sunday the 12th.

Who can participate?
Students with disabilities who are between the ages of 17 and 22 are eligible. Their accompanying sibling should be between the ages of 15 and 25.

Cost?
Attendance is **free**, however, donations are greatly appreciated.

Why come?
Transition is a critical time for students with disabilities and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. This retreat will promote a better appreciation of how brothers and sisters of students with disabilities can help them become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment.

Topics to be covered during the weekend include:
- Description of Transition
- Community Living Options
- Employment
- Decision-Making
- Advocacy
- Self-Determination

Connecting with Ohio SIBS
This weekend is a collaborative effort of Ohio SIBS, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, OSU Nisonger Center and Franklin County Board of DD. It is the mission of Ohio SIBS to provide advocacy, education, leadership and supports that promote enhanced quality of life, improved public policy, and increased supports for siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Members of Ohio SIBS will take part in the retreat as counselors.

Application of Interest
For more information please fill out the following form and return it to Dr.Tom Fish at:
**McC Campbell Hall**
**1581 Dodd Drive**
**Columbus, OH, 43210**
or e-mail to: Thomas.fish@osumc.edu
or call: (614) 685-8723

Student Name:_____________________
Student Age:______________________
Parent(s) Name:____________________
_________________________________
Sibling Name:______________________
Sibling Age:_______________________
Address:__________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
Parent E-mail:_____________________

*Please submit this application and any donations by **March 20, 2015**.
(Please make checks payable to Ohio SIBS.)