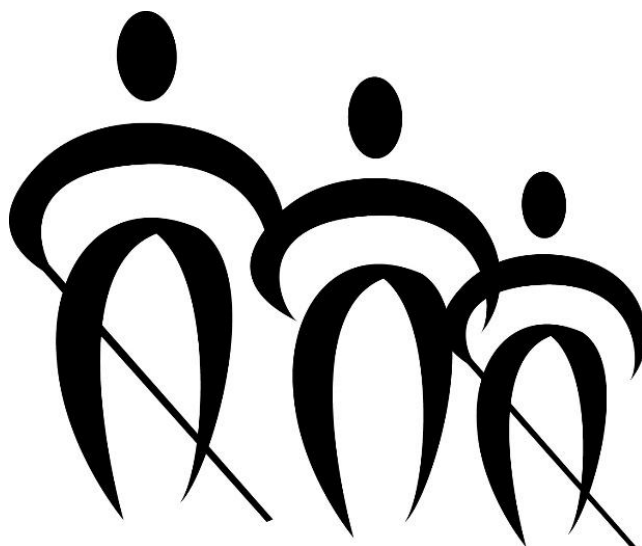


NOPBC

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

JULY 3 - 8, 2026

AUSTIN, TEXAS



DREAMS + SKILLS = SUCCESS

The 2026 NATIONAL SEMINAR for Parents and Teachers

**THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN IS A PROUD DIVISION OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

WELCOME TO THE 2026 NOPBC SEMINAR!

** Insider Information **

The NFB National Convention is a busy week of events, so we've prepared these tips to help you stay organized & make the most of your convention experience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—NOPBC GROUPME

Join the NOPBC Announcements GroupMe for up-to-date announcements on Convention workshops, meetings, and events, and “be sure not to miss” presentations in the NFB General Sessions, all on your phone. After convention, stay connected to receive information on future NOPBC webinars, NFB programs, legislative actions, and so much more!

For more information and instructions on joining visit <http://www.nopbc.org/GroupMe>

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The NOPBC Seminar, NFB Convention, & NFB Child Care each have separate registration and fees. For our special hotel rate, be sure to register for the NFB Convention in addition to registering for the NOPBC Seminar.

NOPBC Seminar Online Registration: <https://www.nopbc.org/conference/registration>. Online NOPBC registration will remain open throughout Convention week. Please register both adults and children (FREE for children 18 and under).

NOPBC Onsite Registration: Friday, July 3, 7:30 – 8:45 AM, outside Salon F.

Youth Track Online Registration: <https://nopbc.org/youth-track-registration> (ages 11 -18)

Youth Track Onsite Registration: Friday, July 3, 7:30 – 8:45 AM, outside the NOPBC Seminar, Salon F, & in the Youth Track room throughout the week. Pick up a Youth Track agenda for times, places, and details of the week’s activities. Pick up your teen promptly at the end of Youth Track sessions or plan to meet elsewhere. In addition to Youth Track, children and youth might enjoy the Cane Walk and activities of the National Association of Blind Students (NABS). Schedules appear toward the end of this agenda.

NFB Child Care Registration (aka NFB Camp):

NFB Child Care (ages 6 wks. – 12 yrs.) requires preregistration, but you can see if space is still available by visiting the NFB Camp Child Care room, Room #211. Schedule appears toward the end of this agenda. Questions—email nfbcamp@nfb.org.

INFORMAL FAMILY GATHERING—THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1:00 PM

We will begin with a special tour of the Austin State Capitol, which include hands-on opportunities. After the tour, we will walk to an ice cream shop at 1400 N Congress Ave, Austin, Texas 78701. Anyone who wants to continue can join us afterward at the Capitol Café for snacks or dinner at 1001 N Congress Ave #180, Austin, TX 78701.

Please let us know you will be joining by calling or texting Mayra at 661-243-5923.

SEMINAR DAY INFORMATION—FRIDAY, JULY 3, 9:00 AM

On Seminar Day, Friday, July 3, drop your child off at Child Care and get to Seminar registration early! There is usually a line and we like to get started on time. Register & pick up your agenda. We begin at 9 AM.

We start the day with a special greeting from NFB President, Mark Riccobono. If you'd like your child to meet the president and ask him a question, you can bring your child to the session and then drop him/her off at child care when the session is over.

After the opening session comes Workshop Group A.

After Workshop Group A comes Lunch. Pick up your child from child care and meet up with your teen for lunch on your own.

After lunch, drop kids off at Child Care & Youth Track. Attend Workshop Groups B & C.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK LONG

Details for certain special NOPBC activities for parents, children, and youth **are listed only in this agenda, so keep this agenda throughout the week.**

Other activities that you & your child might enjoy are listed in the NFB Convention agenda (this is a separate document). Pick it up at Convention registration or in advance at <https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention/2026-national-convention-agenda>. Read both agendas to be aware of all events!

EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION

The NOPBC extends a special thank you to Amy Porterfield, Director of SAAVI Services for the Blind, for providing fun and creative activities for our youth at this year's convention.

Of course, the NOPBC Seminar would not be possible without the collective power of the NOPBC Board! These volunteers—Cassandra McKinney, Casey West Robertson, Melissa Riccobono, Carol Castellano, Sonia Timmons, Cynthia Baker, Andrea Benoit, Amber Guilbeau, Mayra Gonzalez, Briley O'Connor, and Tabby Mitchell—have spent hundreds of hours planning this seminar, all while still caring for their families and working at their jobs. They truly live their commitment to helping other families, changing what it means to be blind, and enabling our children to live the lives they want!

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

To those new to our movement and Federation family, or new to blindness: The National Federation of the Blind and our division, the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, use the word "blind" to mean a person who uses alternative skills and tools in place of or in addition to limited eyesight to gain information or perform tasks. We believe that the whole range of blind people deserve access to these skills and tools which can enable full, independent, productive participation in society. The unity that comes with the use of this singular term promotes common values, understanding, and connection among our members as we work to improve the lives of blind people of all ages across our nation.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children presents DREAMS + SKILLS = SUCCESS

The 2026 NATIONAL SEMINAR for Parents and Teachers

7:30 – 8:45 AM – Salon F - SEMINAR REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK-UP & YOUTH TRACK REGISTRATION

On-site registration and packet pick up for those who pre-registered online.

7:30 – 8:45 AM – Room #303 – NOPBC EXHIBITOR FAIR

Come and explore various vendors who have items of particular interest to families of blind children to showcase. Learn about new technologies and experiences for the whole family.

9:00 – 10:45 AM – Room #306 - NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18)

Games and Prizes. See the Youth Track agenda for activity details.

9:00 – 10:30 AM – Salon F - NOPBC SEMINAR OPENING SESSION

WELCOME – *Cassandra McKinney, President, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children*

A GREETING FROM OUR NFB NATIONAL PRESIDENT – *Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind*

NOPBC PRESIDENTIAL REPORT – *Cassandra McKinney, President, NOPBC*

DREAM BIG, ACHIEVE BIGGER - *Karen Anderson, Director of Educational Programs, National Federation of the Blind*

MY JOURNEY TO SUCCESS THROUGH FEDERATIONISM - *Student*

WHY ADVOCACY MATTERS - *Casey West Robertson, 1st Vice President, NOPBC; Teacher of Blind Students*

PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS – *Melissa Riccobono, 2nd Vice-President, NOPBC*

ADJOURN

Following the general session there will be one set of 4 workshops, then a lunch break, and then two more sets of 4 workshops

Friday, July 3, 2026 continued

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM – WORKSHOP GROUP A

How to Start Braille Instruction/Braille Code Basics – Salon F

Speaker - Casey West Robertson, Teacher of Blind Students

Come learn how to implement Braille at home with your child. Write your name and create a tactile graphic.

It's Not Just Blindness: Strategies for Complex Learners – Room #304

Speaker – Cassie McKinney, President, NOPBC

An approach to educating and setting appropriate goals for your child with additional needs.

Transitioning from IEP to College – Room #305

Speaker - Melissa Riccobono, 2nd Vice President, NOPBC

Do you worry that your child will struggle with the transition to college? Come hear from those who have successfully made the transition; learn some of the strategies they used.

Meet the Advocates – Room #307

Speaker - Sanho Steele-Louchart, Esq., Legal Program Coordinator, NFB

This will be an opportunity to meet the advocates who have been trained through the NFB IEP Advocates Training. Bring your IEP and your concerns, and talk with advocates from across the country.

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM – Youth Track Session (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

Introduction to your NFB Convention and Youth Track Activities. See Youth Track agenda for details.

12:00 – 1:30 PM – Lunch on your own

Child Care will be closed during lunch, so plan to pick up your children, have lunch with your family, and then come back for the afternoon workshops.

12:00 – 1:30pm – NOPBC EXHIBITOR FAIR – Room #303

Come and explore various vendors who have items to showcase. Learn about new technologies and experiences for the whole family.

1:30 – 5:00 PM – NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

Tactile Art and more. See the Youth Track agenda for activity details.

More workshops next page

Friday, July 3, 2026 continued

1:45 – 3:00 PM – WORKSHOP GROUP B

Library Resources – Salon F

Speakers - John Aloszka and Liz Bottner, National Library Services

Information about services offered by NLS (National Library Services) and a demonstration of some of the products that they offer.

Different O&M Techniques – Room #304

Speaker - Kristin Sims, NFB of LA

Discussion of the various training techniques and which ones work the best.
Demonstration of different devices that aid in mobility and how they are used.

Self-Care, Safe Touching, & Body Awareness – Room #305

Speaker - Mika Baugh, PhD

Blind and low vision children, and even adults, often encounter unsolicited and sometimes unwelcome “help” from well-meaning individuals who, without asking, may move, pull, push, steer, or position them. It’s important to equip your child with the skills to handle these situations. There will also be discussion about other self-care topics.

Blind Role Models and Blind Professionals – Room #307

Speakers - Ronza Othman, NFB of MD; Regina Mitchell, NFB of NV

Come hear from blind role models who are working in interesting careers. Hear about their journeys and the tools that they use to accomplish tasks.

3:15 – 4:30 PM – WORKSHOP GROUP C

Little Movers, Big World – Salon F

Speaker - Tarik Williams, NFB of AZ

Play is a critical way that children develop and learn about the world. Come hear information about the interaction of play and development, and get some practical tips on how to invite and encourage your child to be active in play.

Skills, Chores, and Getting Outdoors – Room #304

Speaker – Cassandra McKinney, President, NOPBC

Can blind/low vision kids REALLY be expected to pitch in at home as much as a sighted kid? Yes! Come learn about age, or stage-appropriate, expectations and responsibilities and how parents can learn how blind people accomplish tasks and then teach their children.

Creating a Supportive and Inclusive Environment at Home – Room #305

Speaker - Carol Castellano, Secretary, NOPBC; Author

Strategies to teach your child; thoughts about sighted siblings; ideas for giving yourself a break for not necessarily knowing everything and conquering your fears!

Put Technology to Work for Your Family – Room #307

Speakers - Jonathan Mosen & Charles Hiser, NFB Internat’l Braille & Tech Center (IBTC)

Learn about the many tech options available to students and adults, from navigating Voiceover on iPhones and iPads, to various refreshable braille displays.

Friday, July 3, 2026 continued

4:00 – 5:00 PM – NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18) – Room 306

What Kind of Jobs Can Blind People Do? See the Youth Track agenda for activity details.

8:30 PM – STUDENT NETWORKING – Salon E

See NFB agenda for details

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

Child Care is CLOSED on this day.

8:30 – 11:30 AM – CANE WALK – Room #306

Wondering if your child would benefit from using a cane? Curious about how a cane works? Learn and experience the Structured Discovery Method of travel at this special session. Parents, teachers, blind children, and sighted siblings welcome. Michell Gip, NOMC, Coordinator

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM – Youth Track Session (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

Unconventional Scavenger Hunt. See Youth Track agenda for details.

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM – PARENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM—PLP – Room #310

Has the NOPBC helped you and your family? Would you like to get more involved? Come learn about leadership opportunities in your state and nationally. Melissa Riccobono, Coordinator

NFB EXHIBIT HALL & INDEPENDENCE MARKET OPEN

See the largest exhibit of useful items for blind people in the world! From practical household items to the highest of tech, you can see it all here. See the NFB agenda for details.

1:00 PM – NFB RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Come see how NFB policies and initiatives for the coming year are created.

7:00 – 10:00 PM – STUDENT DIVISION (NABS) MEETING (more for ages 14 & up)

Registration at 6:00; programming at 7:00. See NFB agenda for details.

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

In the morning, visit the Exhibit Hall and the Independence Market. Consider attending the NFB Board Meeting—it's open to all.

In the afternoon, eat lunch early and drop your kids & teens off at Child Care and Youth Track. Child Care opens early today—12:45— so that you can get to our NOPBC Annual Meeting at 1:00.

9:00 AM – NFB BOARD MEETING—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

Open to all

12:45 – Drop your kids off at Child Care early today

1:00 – 4:00 PM – NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

Exhibit Hall Challenge. See the Youth Track agenda for details.

1:00 – 4:00 PM – NOPBC ANNUAL DIVISION MEETING—OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES—Salon G

1:00 PM – OPENING REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS, Cassandra McKinney, President

1:15 PM –IT'S MORE THAN A CAREER: IT'S MY PASSION, 2026 Distinguished Educator of Blind Students Award Winner

1:45 PM – BRAILLE READERS ARE LEADERS, Lisamaria Martinez, NFB of CA

1:55 PM – BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, Lauren Altman, President, National Association of Blind Students

2:15 PM – A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS, Pam Allen, Director, Louisiana Center for the Blind

2:30 PM – STUDENT SUCCESS

2:45 PM – HELPING YOUR CHILD TRANSITION TO LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL,

Marisol Carmona, Parent Coach, Perkins Transition Center; Vice President, VA Parents of Blind Children

3:10 PM – REVIEW OF THE 2025 NOPBC BUSINESS MEETING, Carol Castellano, Secretary, NOPBC

3:20 PM – FINANCIAL REVIEW, Sonia Timmons, Treasurer, NOPBC

3:25 PM – ELECTIONS

3:50 PM – ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURN

At the end of the Annual Meeting there will be special instructions regarding the Braille Book Fair—coming up next!

Sunday, July 5, 2026 continued

4:30 – 6:30 PM – BRAILLE BOOK FAIR – Salon E

4:30 - 5:00 - Blind children (18 & younger only) book choosing

5:00 - 6:30 - Open to all; *those with NOPBC wristbands go in first*

A book lover's dream! Browse table after table of FREE new and used Braille and print/Braille books. Due to high demand, **print/Braille books will be limited to 5 per blind child attendee and 3 per teacher**. Restrictions may be eased depending on supply available. After you choose your books, volunteers will box them and deliver them to the post office for Free Matter shipment to your home. Donations are gratefully accepted to help support our Braille Programs.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NFB CONVENTION OPENING SESSION—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

Don't miss the bang of the gavel and the roar of the crowd at the opening session of the NFB convention! NFB general sessions take place all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Be sure to check your GroupMe messages and the NFB Convention agenda for the many interesting and important program items that you won't want to miss. Many additional events and meetings take place before the morning session, at lunchtime, and in the evenings. See the NFB Convention Agenda for details.

12:15 – 1:45 PM – NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

What is a Resolution? See the Youth Track agenda for activity details.

12:15 – 1:45 PM – PARENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM—PLP – Room #310

Has the NOPBC helped you and your family? Would you like to get more involved? Come learn about leadership opportunities in your state and nationally.

2:00 – 5:00 PM – NFB GENERAL SESSION—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

7:00 - 10:00 PM – MAKING SKILLS FUN FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH – Room #307

An evening full of fun and learning for children whose parents are attending our NOPBC workshops and youth who are participating in Youth Track. There will be stations for learning various skills.

Monday, July 6, 2026 continued

7:00 – 8:15 PM – NOPBC WORKSHOP GROUP D

Getting a Fair Evaluation for Your Child with Multiple Disabilities – Room #303

Speakers - Casey Robertson, 1st VP, NOPBC; Melissa Riccobono, 2nd VP, NOPBC

Our kids can end up being penalized for not being able to see the test or for other aspects of their disabilities. Come learn some principles and ideas for getting a better evaluation.

Panel of Success Stories – Room #305

Speakers - Anil Lewis, Executive Director of Blindness Initiatives, NFB; Lauren Altman, President, National Association of Blind Students (NABS)

How to ask the right questions about services for your child and how to prepare your children for life after high school. There will be time for Q&A.

8:30 – 9:45 PM – NOPBC WORKSHOP GROUP E

Social Skills – Room #303

Speaker - Amanda Juetten, NFB of TN

Come see a role-play session on social skills. Get a refresher on what works and what doesn't and how to help your child develop these skills.

Mock IEP with the Advocates – Room #305

Speaker - Casey Robertson, 1st VP, NOPBC

Advocates will give a biography and provide their contact information. You will be able to make appointments and sign up to consult with them. BRING YOUR IEP and/or YOUR SPECIFIC CONCERNS!!!

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NFB GENERAL SESSION—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

12:15 – 1:45 PM – NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSION (ages 11 – 18) – Room #306

Accessible Video Games. See the Youth Track agenda for activity details.

12:15 – 1:45 PM – NOPBC BOARD MEETING – Room #302

All are welcome to this lunchtime meeting. Bring your ideas for next year!

2:00 – 5:00 PM – NFB GENERAL SESSION—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

6:00–8:00 p.m. *Brailled It* Documentary Screening—Rooms 203 and 204

Join us for a screening and discussion of the documentary film *Brailled It*. The film is captured almost entirely by blind and low-vision kids who take control of the cameras at the annual Braille Challenge—a weekend of high-pressure competition and raw coming-of-age moments.

Conchita Hernandez Legoretta, Impact Producer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NFB GENERAL SESSION—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

6:30 PM BANQUET—JW Grand Ballroom, level 4

Don't miss the highlight of the Convention with good food and fellowship, the Banquet address, the presentation of scholarships, door prizes, and more!

NFB Camp

NFB Camp is a childcare option offered during our national convention for children ages six weeks to twelve-years-old, both blind and sighted. Preregistration is required.

The program features lessons from the NFB BELL® Academy curriculum, in addition to a variety of activities including art projects, orientation, mobility, and daily living skills training, music, movement, and mathematics. We separate the children by age and provide activities appropriate for each age group.

Our staff is vetted through background checks, training, and experience working with blind children. We are grateful for support from our national divisions and committees, the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, and our NFB BELL Academies.

2026 Daily Camp Schedule

- Friday, July 3: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 4: Closed
- Sunday, July 5: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:45 to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 6: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 7: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8 (Banquet): 6:30 p.m. to thirty minutes after banquet adjourns. Dinner will be provided for children in camp during banquet.

These times are approximate. The actual times are thirty minutes before sessions begin and thirty minutes after adjournment, whenever the President determines those times to be; no exceptions.

NOPBC 2026 SEMINAR OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, JULY 2

1:00 PM Informal Family Gathering

FRIDAY, JULY 3

7:30 - 8:45 AM NOPBC Seminar & Youth Track Registrations
Be sure to pick up all agendas!

7:30 – 8:45AM NOPBC Exhibitor Fair

9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Youth Track (ages 11-18)

9:00 - 10:30 AM NOPBC Dreams + Skills = Success Seminar General Session
(Adults & Children)

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM NOPBC Concurrent Workshop Group A

12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own – Feed your kids

12:00 – 1:30 PM NOPBC Exhibitor Fair

1:30 PM Child care reopens

1:30 – 5:00 PM Youth Track (ages 11 – 18)

1:45 - 3:00 PM NOPBC Concurrent Workshop Group B

3:15 - 4:30 PM NOPBC Concurrent Workshop Group C

8:30 PM Student Networking

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Child care closed

8:30 – 11:30AM Cane Walk (Adults, Children, Youth)

11:15AM – 12:45PM NOPBC Youth Track (ages 11 – 18)

11:15AM – 12:45PM NOPBC Parent Leadership – Meeting 1

7:00 – 9:00 PM Youth Track (ages 11-18)

7:00 – 10:00 PM NABS Annual Meeting (ages 14 & up)

SUNDAY, JULY 5

12:45 PM Drop your child off at 12:45 in Child Care this afternoon
in order to get to the NOPBC Annual Meeting on time

1:00 - 4:00 PM Youth Track (ages 11 – 18)

1:00 - 4:00 PM NOPBC Annual Meeting

4:30 - 6:30 PM Braille Book Fair
4:30 - 5:00 Blind children (18 & younger only) book choosing
5:00 Book Fair open to all

MONDAY, JULY 6

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NFB Opening Session
12:15 – 1:45 PM	Youth Track (ages 11-18)
12:15 – 1:45 PM	NOPBC Parent Leadership – Meeting 2
2:00 – 5:00 PM	NFB General Session
7:00 – 10:00 PM	NOPBC Children & Youth Workshop
7:00 – 9:45 PM	NOPBC Workshops Groups D & E

TUESDAY, JULY 7

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NFB General Session
12:15 – 1:45 PM	Youth Track (ages 11-18)
12:15 – 1:45 PM	Youth Track (ages 11-18)
12:15 – 1:45 PM	NOPBC Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 – 5:00 PM	NFB General Session
6:00 – 8:00 PM	<i>Brailled It</i> Documentary Screening

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NFB General Session
6:30 PM	Banquet