



Explorations and Transitions

Teen and Adult - Summer 2020

MGH Aspire is offering a new virtual summer program for teen and adult participants ages 14-22. Utilizing digital applications, participants will develop independent living skills, build peer connections, and enjoy virtual field trips and social gatherings during this engaging online five-week program. Using MGH Aspire's peer matching process, participants will be placed in small groups based on interests, personalities, learning styles, strengths, and goals. Program curriculum is based on MGH Aspire's "3S" model, emphasizing development in self-awareness, stress management, and social competency. The program will primarily take place on Discord, an app that allows for text, image, voice and video chat.

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\$2950

July 6th - August 7th

Program Schedule: Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Participants will begin each program day with a morning meeting, followed by facilitated curriculum blocks, lunch-time socializing, recreational groups (e.g, Film Club, Guild Chronicles, Cooperative Gaming, Trivia, etc.), and educational electives (e.g., discussion-based groups for the Explorations cohort and remote work for the Transitions cohort). Participants should specify their choice of Explorations or Transitions when applying.

Explorations (ages 14 - 19)

Curriculum focus: Community and independent living skills

Groups in the Explorations cohort will spend time each week focusing on planning for the future and engaging in social activities designed to foster social curiosity and build strong group bonds. Alternating by week, the group will center on college planning and career planning. This cohort will also participate in weekly discussion-based groups.

Transitions (ages 16 - 22)

Curriculum focus: Job readiness skills

Participants in the Transitions cohort will be assigned meaningful remote work opportunities in the field of arts, education, technology or administration. Remote work sessions will be held weekly. Additional remote work completed outside of program hours is expected. This group will also participate in weekly work seminars focused on job readiness.



Helping children, teens and adults with autism spectrum disorder or a related profile achieve success.

Curriculum Blocks

Based on MGH Aspire's "3S" model, participants will attend daily curriculum blocks designed to help neurodiverse participants build skills related to social competency, develop stress management techniques and increase their self-awareness. These learning sessions will be facilitated by experienced leadership staff. Lessons will be posted on an online learning site, accessible outside of program hours, with read-only access for parents and caregivers, allowing them to observe the content MGH Aspire is teaching.

Extended Learning Opportunities

Outside of program hours, additional opportunities for learning and socialization will be available to all participants. Extensions of lessons, time to practice stress management techniques, opportunities to put in work for the remote work placement, and self-reflection activities will be available in the online classroom. The MGH Aspire Discord servers will also remain open, giving teens and young adults a place to meet up online with new friends to play games or chat. Special events, like game nights and movie nights, will also be scheduled twice weekly and facilitated by MGH Aspire staff.

Parent Support

While our program is primarily focused on the teen and young adult participants, we recognize the importance of the family system. Parent support services will be offered throughout the five-week program. These services will include weekly virtual parent discussion groups, led by MGH Aspire Director of Teen and Adult Services, an MGH Aspire Discord server shared exclusively with parents, a weekly e-newsletter with program updates and information, and MGH Aspire staff communication (through text or voice) providing updates on each participant's progress.

Registration

To apply for this summer program, new MGH Aspire participants and past participants not currently enrolled should submit a [General Application](#) (varies by age). Currently enrolled participants should submit a [Returning Participant Application](#). To learn more about our summer programs, or if you have any questions, please call us at 781-860-1900.