



CHILDREN'S WEEK

AT THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

GET INVOLVED! MARCH 13-16, 2023

MONDAY
Education

TUESDAY
Mental Wellness

WEDNESDAY
Physical Wellness

THURSDAY
Safety

Purpose

The purpose of Children's Week is to represent Nevada's Children and help strengthen families in areas such as school readiness, children's physical and mental health, and child safety and security. For the past six legislative sessions, over 80 different non-profit, corporate, philanthropic, and state agencies and organizations have joined together as we strengthened Nevada's families by sharing a commitment to improve our communities through events and outreach efforts aimed at promoting the health, safety, and well-being of our children.

Strategies

Children's Week will include a variety of activities that support education, mental health, physical wellness and safety while engaging legislators and connecting them with Nevada's youth and families. Social media campaigns will additionally aid in spreading community awareness and gaining participation in these efforts.

Opportunities for Engagement

Organizations wishing to participate in this year's Children's Week event can choose from a variety of activities such as organizing a roundtable discussion, creating video testimonies, participating in a panel discussion, etc. We will be asking participating groups to utilize the resources provided by our organization to help promote Children's Week before and during the event. Groups can choose to

lead certain activities during the week, on one or more of the themed days described above. Each day, a room will be set up to allow organizations to have a table at which they can interact with legislators and other Children's Week participants. Time slots will be made available for organizations.

One goal of Children's Week is to promote engagement among youth and families as much as possible. They will be provided opportunities to give video and written testimony about issues important to them, create artwork that will be sent directly to legislators, and participate in the activities occurring throughout the week.

The sections below provide an overview of the planned activities for the 2023 Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature for both organizations and youth/families.

See a Description of the Activities Below and Take the Involvement Survey to tell us how you want to participate! bit.ly/CW23GetInvolved

Children's Week Activities

Social Media

A Children's Week Social Media Toolkit will be developed to help promote Children's Week activities and prepare organizations and individuals to participate in the week's activities. Message templates will be made available for organizations to use on their own social media platforms and email listservs, along with a schedule for release. To ensure that the information included in these posts and announcements have maximum reach and impact, we will be asking organizations to complete one or more of the following activities:

- **Provide us** with social media content you would want us to share in the toolkit.
- **Follow the schedule** provided to promote awareness of the event during the opening weeks of the Legislative Session.
- **Tag legislators** in social media posts. This notifies legislators of posts so they will be more likely to look at them.
- **Solicit testimonials** from youth, teachers, or parents your organization works with to include as part of the social media strategy.
- **Use Children's Week graphics, or your own** including Instagram filters, Facebook profile frames, Zoom/Virtual meeting backgrounds, and other media provided in the toolkit in the weeks leading up to the event as well as during Children's Week to increase awareness.

Room Activities

Participating organizations will be given the opportunity to attend and/or lead one or more of the following activities that will help to engage legislators and youth/families during the week:

- **Tabling** – Sign up for a shift to table to help spread awareness about your organization and your issue during the week. We will need groups present to help provide information to policy makers and community members that join the space throughout the day.
- **Morning coffee chat** to open discussions between organizations, youth/families, legislators, and their staff.
- **“Roundtable” discussion(s)** lead by presenters from organizations but inclusive of all attending to explore specific topics each day
 - To allow for small group discussions and brief presentations, groups may be split up into smaller groups if more than one roundtable is occurring. These discussions will last approximately 15-20 minutes. Participants will have the opportunity to move between groups during intervals to learn about multiple organizations and issues.
- **Panel discussion** with a group of subject matter experts (parents, youth, organizational leaders) gathered together to discuss an issue, often to provide feedback on something, to brainstorm solutions to a problem or to discuss an issue of public concern in front of an audience
 - The panel will discuss issues before a live audience. Moderators will be provided questions prior to the panel discussion to allow for panelists to prepare.
 - A brief Question & Answer session will be allowed towards the end of each panel discussion.
 - We encourage organizations to consider staff who would be a good fit to moderate and/or participate in one of these discussions.
- **Brief informational segments** - Prepare a 5-10-minute-long presentation on a topic that can be shared with legislators during the event.
 - These presentations should include important information on your topic which can include, facts, information regarding your organization and issues relevant to the communities you serve.
 - These can be prerecorded and played at the event in person or sent to legislators or done in person when legislators are present

- **Meet with legislators** to participate in a brief discussion regarding your important issues relevant to the theme of your chosen day(s). You can schedule these meeting on your own or we can provide assistance if needed.
 - Organizations are encouraged to include participation from staff and youth/families you serve to provide a comprehensive view of your priority issues and help legislators visualize the people they will be helping.

Additional Activities to Engage Youth & Families

Gather Youth Artwork

During Children’s Week, we hope to engage as many youth as possible to connect with their representatives as a reminder of the constituents that they should be fighting for. To allow participation from youth of all ages, we encourage them to provide personal creations that will help tell their stories. Below are examples of the types of artwork that we encourage organizations to collect from the youth they serve.

Art Templates – Cut-out templates will be provided for youth to decorate and color, symbolizing the issues during Children’s Week with or without messages to legislators. Some Examples include:

- **Paper Doll** to represent early childhood.
<https://nic.unlv.edu/cw-paperdoll>
- **Pinwheel** for awareness about child abuse prevention.
<https://nic.unlv.edu/cw-pinwheel>
- **NV Afterschool Network Lightbulb** to celebrate afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities.
<https://nic.unlv.edu/cw-lightbulb>

Teddy Bear Parade on Monday

This activity is done each Children’s Week to allow youth to walk through the Legislative Building as a reminder of the youngest constituents that still have a voice in this process. Youth will conduct their own Teddy Bear Parade by showcasing their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal.

Showcase Youth and Your Program Virtually or In Person

Community organizations that run youth serving programs - including afterschool/out-of-school time, early childhood/childcare, libraries, and other programs - can create an activity to showcase what the organization/program offers for youth and families, or have the youth perform live (dance, music, choir, etc.). These performances can take place live during Children's Week activities. Programs can also submit recordings of previous performances that they would like to showcase.

Gather Testimony from Staff, Parent, and Youth

Youth, families, and staff can lend their voice to the advocacy efforts taking place during Children's Week by recording testimony regarding their connection to a particular issue. Some options for providing testimony in conjunction with Children's Week are listed below.

- **Letters or postcards** to legislators from youth, including their opinions on Children's Week topics.
- **Virtual Interviews** with youth/family members.
 - Programs can assist by recording brief interviews conducted with parents/family members of the youth they serve, to help impress upon legislators the importance of ensuring that high-quality programs are affordable and accessible to all families.
- **Social Media Campaign/Testimonies** specific to youth, parents or family members, and teachers where they can share their opinions and personal stories on particular topics.
 - Templates are provided to make it easier for youth and parents to create their own posts.
 - Testimonies can be in the form of a short text, photo, written story or video.
 - To submit a testimony participants can go to: bit.ly/CW23Testimonials
 - Nevada Afterschool Network is also collecting testimonials specific to out-of-school/afterschool experiences and will be sharing these testimonials as well: unlv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1S8yNnSHD6gqoh8
 - Organizations can assist by posting brief video recordings taken for other activities on their own social media platforms.