



Natural Ties Training Handout

Fall 2009—Spring 2010

Website: <http://groups.ku.edu/~nties/>

Email: ntiesku@yahoo.com

- Please bookmark the Natural Ties KU Webpage
- The website contains all information regarding weekly activities, contact information, and training materials

Purpose of Natural Ties

- Natural Ties is an organization committed to forming quality social relationships between mentally and physically disabled members of the Lawrence, Kansas, community and KU students.

Definitions

- “Tie”: A mentally or physically disabled individual and participant in the Natural Ties program.
- “Volunteer”: typically (but not limited to) KU student volunteering time (whether paired with a tie or not) in the Natural Ties program.
- “Participant”: any individual, whether tie or volunteer, at a Natural Ties event or affiliated in any capacity with the Natural Ties program.

Qualifications

- Volunteers with either a felony background, sexual offense, or DUI (even if diverted) ***MUST*** visit with the Natural Ties Coordinator ***BEFORE*** participating in Natural Ties.
- Volunteers with history of a felony background, sexual offense, or DUI (even if diverted) may ***not*** transport Ties in any capacity or for any reason related to Natural Ties

Your Tie

- Participants must keep in mind that ties can be very sensitive to a wide variety of unforeseen situational stimulants. Form a relationship with the tie and their respective caretakers, always making sure to know any limitations or special considerations for the tie.
- This includes knowing what developmental disability your tie has and potentially includes any special allergies or medical conditions that would impact your tie’s participation in the program

Weekly Expectations

Before Events

- Participants are expected to build quality social relationships with their paired tie. Part of this goal is fulfilled by picking up your tie before required events and taking them to dinner, bringing them back to your fraternity, sorority, or KU club, or just generally meeting with them outside of the sponsored segment of weekly Wednesday activities.

At Events

- Encourage your tie to participate in the weekly events.
- Participate yourself in the weekly events
- Do not discourage your tie or fellow participants from participating
- Socialize with other ties and participants

Outside Events

- Periodically meet with your tie outside Wednesdays (either before or at events). Take the tie to a movie, go to Target, get lunch, walk Mass Street, get an ice cream cone, or some other activity that would contribute to a stronger social relationship between you and your tie.

Reporting Problems

- Report any problem, danger, or suspicious activity to the nearest Board member
- *In event of Emergency, immediately dial 911*

Natural Ties 2009-10 Board of Directors: Contact Information

Natural Ties email: ntiesku@yahoo.com

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
Coordinator	T.J. Trum	(913) 620-3961	tjtrum@ku.edu
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