



Help us Reach New Heights!

WELCOME

Welcome to SOAR Fox Cities!
We're happy you're here.

We at SOAR are passionate about empowering people with differing abilities and being a place for everyone to belong.

Within this guide, we'll share the ways YOU can make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and become champions for inclusion.

Thank you for helping us reach new heights!



MISSION

Empowering People with Differing Abilities

VISION

A community where all individuals are actively involved and have opportunities to maximize their potential.

VALUES

Care, Integrity, Respect, Advocacy, Positive Relationships, Life-long Learning, Community

211 E Franklin St. STE A. Appleton, WI 54911
920.731.9831 | info@soarfoxcities.com
www.soarfoxcities.com



CURRENT PROGRAMS

ABLE FAMILIES: CAREGIVER & FAMILY SUPPORT

- Caregiver Support Groups
- Family Fun Events
- Education and Resource Referrals

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Advocacy Support for Individuals
- Community Education on Disability Topics
- School Presentations on Inclusion

EMPOWERED FOR LIFE: HEALTHY & ABLE INDIVIDUALS

- Adult Education
- Community Inclusion (formally Adult SRR)
- Camps
- Special Olympics
- People First Self-Advocacy Group

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- School-Based Activities
- SOAR Thru Summer
- Evolve Young Adult Summer Program
- Inclusive After-School Programming
- Beyond the Classroom Education Program

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT

- Survivor Support Groups
- Caregiver Support Groups
- Individual Resource Navigation

HISTORY

It started with a dream.

In 1956, when SOAR was originally founded, there was nothing for people with differing abilities. They could not attend school or work and, more often than not, were institutionalized and segregated from the rest of society.

But the parents of our founding participants wanted more for their children. They dreamt of a world where their kids were **seen and valued** for the unique, wonderful individuals that they were. Where they could have opportunities and be involved members in our community. With that dream, SOAR was founded.

Originally two agencies, the ARC of Outagamie County and the ARC of Neenah-Menasha were **started as a day-school**, radically providing education to children with developmental disabilities. From there, we grew to provide social and recreational activities, team sports, adult education, overnight camps, and more community-based programs.

In 2006, these two agencies merged to create ARC Fox Cities, and in 2014 rebranded to SOAR, a **name that reflects the hopes, dreams, and true potential** of all our participants.

SOAR has been at the forefront of disability advocacy and empowerment for over 65 years. We are so proud of our history and **how far we have come**, and look forward to an even **brighter future ahead**.

Together, we can reach new heights!



THE MEANING BEHIND SOAR

In 2014, our agency underwent a name change from The Arc Fox Cities to SOAR Fox Cities. This name better reflects our mission of empowerment and removed the association with the “R” word the agency’s previous name held.

Many ask what SOAR stands for, but it is not an acronym. Rather, it is an idea, a bold statement about the potential of all people to reach new heights and achieve their dreams.

Along with our new name, the kite was thoughtfully selected as our new logo, symbolizing our participants and the different people that help us SOAR.

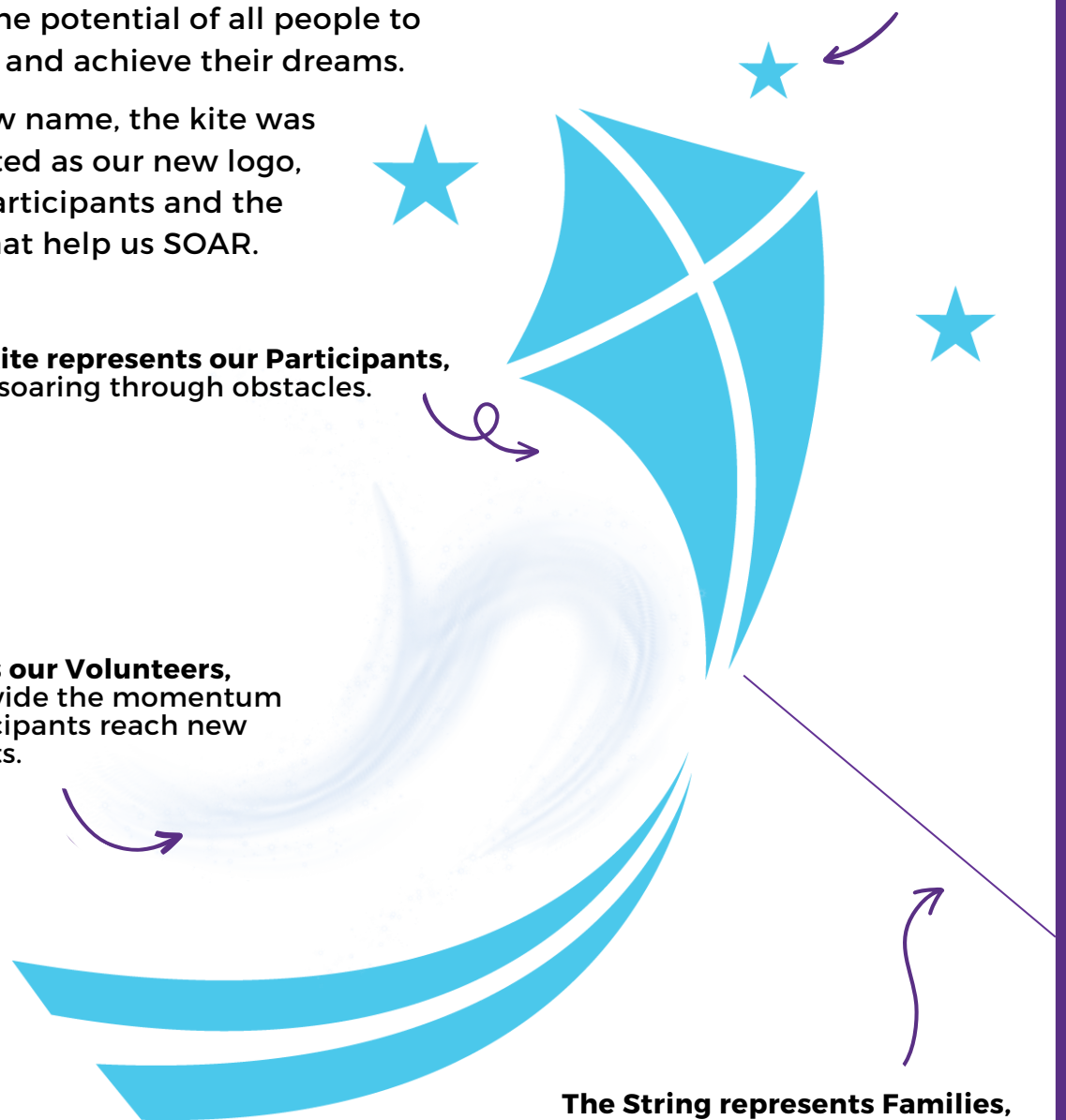
The Stars represent the Hopes, Dreams, and Goals our participants are soaring towards achieving.

The Kite represents our Participants, soaring through obstacles.

The Wind represents our Volunteers, working together to provide the momentum which helps our participants reach new heights.

The Tail represents our Donors, whose contributions provide our participants the stability needed to soar.

The String represents Families, Friends, and Professionals who connect to support and guide our participants.





WHY SOAR?

We know there are so many amazing causes and organizations you could support. Here's why we think SOAR is a worthwhile investment!

An Agency You Can Trust

SOAR has been a pillar of the community for over 65 years. Our longevity can be attributed to our high-quality programs, continual evaluation and improvement, fiscal responsibility, and our passionate, dedicated team.

People Empowered

Your support of SOAR empowers those with disabilities in our community to lead full, connected, independent lives.

"I love SOAR because of all the fun opportunities to socialize with peers and be yourself! I get a bunch of awesome tools that help me be independent and give me opportunities to be a self-advocate. That is what you promote here at SOAR- no matter your ability, you can be independent."

Large Community Impact

People with disabilities are underserved and often forgotten, but they are the largest minority group and makeup 4% of the Fox Cities. Annually, SOAR serves over 1,000 youth and adults with differing abilities living in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties.

A Place to Belong

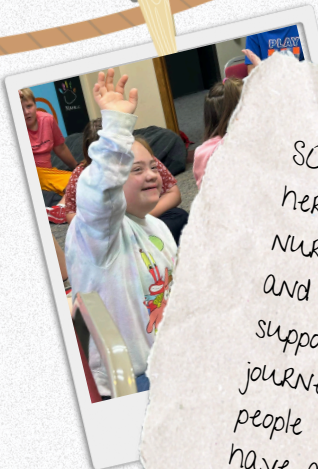
Your support of SOAR creates a space for everyone to feel welcomed, valued, and celebrated.

"Being at SOAR Camp is an awesome experience; it is like reaching a safe haven. Almost everywhere, you see and hear people telling you what to be, how to act, and what to do differently, but here you get to be yourself. Everyone is accepting of you! It is a life-changing experience."

DID YOU KNOW?

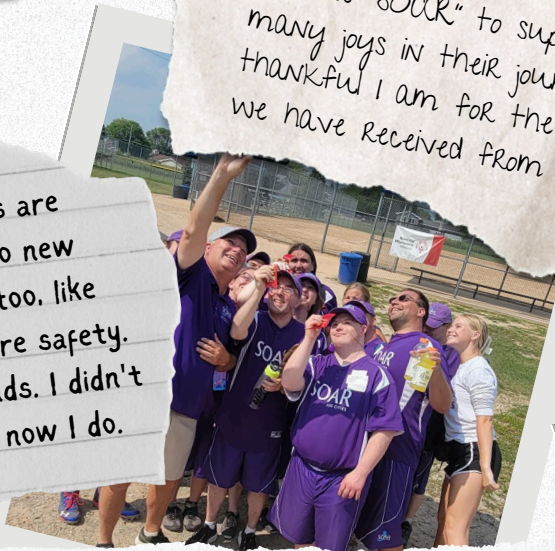
The disability community is the only minority group anyone can become a member of at any time.





SOAR has been there for Laura and our family since her birth. We received information about SOAR from a nurse and were so lucky to connect with SOAR staff and families who helped us from day one. Without their support and encouragement in all the steps of our journey, we would not be where we are today. I know people in our situation who live in communities that do not have a "SOAR" to support them, and they have missed many joys in their journey. I truly cannot express how thankful I am for the friendships, guidance, and support we have received from SOAR.

I love SOAR! The activities are pretty cool and I get to do new things. I've learned a lot too, like different exercises and fire safety. Also, I made lots of friends. I didn't have friends before, and now I do.



Lilja gained so much independence and confidence while attending SOAR Thru Summer. We could really see the benefits of the structured and positive activities she did at SOAR rather than being isolated at home with a caregiver and spending time on the iPad. Lil cannot stay home alone, and there are essentially no supervised options or day programs for teenagers. It was a real game-changer for our family. For me and my husband, it allowed us both to work, and for Lilja, it was a perfect blend of structure, fun, and learning. We can't wait for next year!



I have had a difficult time making new friends and keeping old friends since my brain injury, but SOAR's TBI Support Group has helped and provided me with a group of new friends who understand me, sometimes better than I understand myself!

DIRECT DONOR IMPACT

Our incredible donors make everything we do at SOAR possible. At any level of giving, your donation makes a difference. See the impact your donation can make.

\$25

Provides ingredients for a cooking or baking class for one adult with a disability

\$100

Provides one season of practice and tournaments for a Special Olympic bowling athlete

\$250

Provides transportation for two field trips for our summer youth programs

\$300

Provides tickets for a Community Inclusion movie night

\$500

Provides activity supplies for our Annual Holiday Party





Provides one year of parent and caregiver support groups

\$1,000



Provides the venues and food for our two annual Family Fun events

\$2,500



Provides transportation to state tournaments for our Special Olympics program

\$4,000



Provides Onaway Island and camper meals for the entire five-day summer camp

\$10,000



Covers the cost of the building and utility fees for the SOAR office and activity building

\$25,000



Covers the cost of our full-day, nine-week summer youth program, SOAR Thru Summer

\$50,000

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

In addition to general donations, sponsorship opportunities are available in several of our programs. Sponsors receive additional benefits, including recognition on event signage, Facebook, and the program website, as well as hands-on volunteer opportunities!



\$375

Basketball Post-Season Party Sponsor

Each year, we celebrate our basketball athletes' dedication and hard work with a post-season pizza party for all of our SOAR teams! SOAR has the second-largest Special Olympics program in the state, and our basketball program has 80 athletes competing each year!

\$750

Camp Onaway Shirt Sponsor

Our five-day Camp Onaway program is one of our most highly anticipated programs! Each year, 60 campers attend a fun-filled week on Onaway Island, swimming, playing games, enjoying campfires, boating, fishing, and more with friends. Each camper receives a commemorative shirt to remember the summer!

\$1,500

Community Inclusion Dance Sponsor

Each month, our Community Inclusion Program (formally Adult Social, Recreation, & Respite) hosts a dance for adults with disabilities! Food, friends, and amazing music make these events a favorite of SOAR participants, with over 100 people attending each month!

\$3,000

Family Holiday Party Sponsor

Our Annual Holiday Party provides families of people with disabilities an opportunity to come together and experience the joy of Christmas in a community that understands and accepts them! They can enjoy a meal, holiday crafts, pictures with Santa, and more fun in a safe, welcoming, inclusive environment.

\$7,500

Corn Roast Sponsor

The Corn Roast is our largest family event, with over 300 attendees coming together for traditional summer fun! The Corn Roast also provides an excellent opportunity for groups looking for more hands-on engagement, relying on volunteers to serve food, lead games, run activity stations, and more!

\$13,000

Special Olympics Bowling Sponsor

SOAR's Special Olympics Bowling is the largest of our seven sports, with approximately 130 athletes competing each year! Through SOAR Special Olympics, athletes learn discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork while having fun through competition and being physically fit!



CUSTOM SPONSORSHIPS

Interested in sponsoring a SOAR program that doesn't have a current sponsorship opportunity? We are always happy to collaborate with our supporters to align your gift with a program need or opportunity you are passionate about. For more information, don't hesitate to contact Erin Schultz-Wege, Executive Director.

Erin@soarfoxcities.com | (920) 731-9831 x116

GIFT OF TIME

Volunteers are a vital part of our mission to empower people with differing abilities! With opportunities across all programs during weekdays, evenings, and weekends, we have the activity to fit your interests. Whether volunteering individually or as part of a group, **your gift of time makes our activities and special events possible.**

A few of our opportunities include:

ADULT PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

- Assist with educational classes such as cooking, baking, financial literacy, and household care
- Support participants at respite activities such as crafts, bingo, dances, and community outings

CAMP COUNSELORS

- Support campers at our overnight camps as cabin leaders and in camp activities such as arts and crafts, boating, fishing, games, music, swimming, and more
- Must be 16 years or older

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

- Volunteer as coach or assistant coach in one (or more!) of our seven sports, supporting athletes at practices, games, and tournaments
- Help with timing and record-keeping for our athletes' competition qualifications

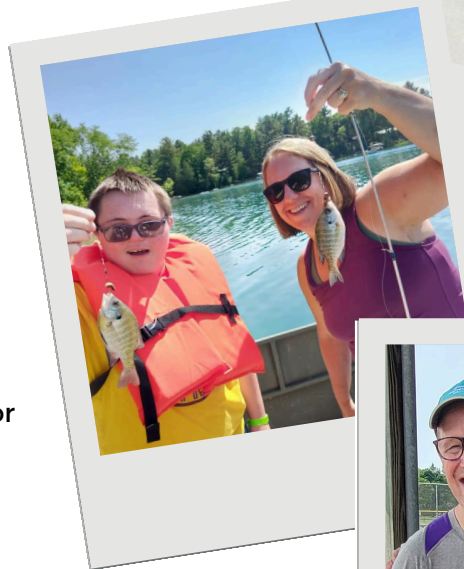
YOUTH PROGRAM PEERS

- Youth can join our afterschool programs for problem-solving and team-building activities with SOAR participants! Assist participants in games, model positive behaviors, and build new friendships

CORPORATE AND GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

- Special events such as our Corn Roast, Holiday Party, and Fundraisers are ideal for groups
- Volunteer groups can help with set up, serving refreshments, chaperoning, and socializing with participants at monthly dances
- Work behind the scenes to help with prep for large programs and special events

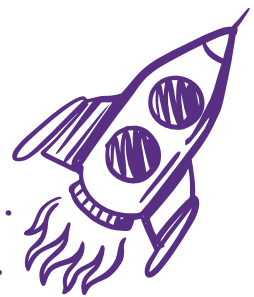
For More Information: volunteer@soarfoxcities.com





Awesome!

"I have been volunteering with SOAR for over 15 years because it is a great organization that provides advocacy and resources for people with varying abilities. I love connecting with everyone involved with SOAR, including staff and participants. Helping with SOAR is rewarding and has impacted me in many positive ways. I've helped with several programs and fundraisers, including Camp Onaway, TnT, dances, the Golf Outing, bowling events, overnights, and the Corn Roast! My favorite part of volunteering is getting to know participants and seeing the growth and happiness SOAR's programs provide for these individuals. I have a 6-year-old daughter who has also started to come to SOAR activities, and I love being able to share those experiences with her."



"I started volunteering with SOAR almost two years ago because I wanted to learn more about their role in the Fox Cities as they inspire youth, adults, and their families to live every day with love, hope, and worth. Most of my volunteering involved office support to the staff, and I really enjoy the variety of projects and getting to work with them! I also enjoy meeting members and their families that visit the office."



"I first got involved with SOAR through TnT and shortly after started volunteering with other programs! I volunteer with SOAR to meet a variety of different and vibrant characters; those connections mean a lot to me. My favorite part of volunteering is the conversations I have with the attendees at SOAR events. Most of them have these incredible senses of humor, but even in between laughing, I've had some very sincere and meaningful conversations."



OTHER WAYS TO

ADVOCACY

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook is a great way to stay up-to-date with all things SOAR! You'll see program updates, fundraisers, special announcements, general disability advocacy, and more!

Host a Community Ed Presentation!

We offer Community Education Presentations about SOAR and the Disability Community as a whole! Our presentations are designed to raise awareness about people with disabilities, answer common questions about disability-related topics, and advocate for inclusion. Our presentations can be customized to fit the needs of any group, offering special presentations for youth, first responders, businesses, employers, and more!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Attend or Sponsor a Fundraiser!

Our fundraisers are an important way that we raise both money and awareness about SOAR! From our Annual Golf Outing to 'Paint it Forward' nights at Pinots Palette, we like to put the FUN in fundraising at SOAR! Sponsorship packages are available for our larger annual events, or simply support by bringing your friends!

Host your own SOAR Event!

We love when our amazing community members come up with their own ideas or events to support SOAR! If you'd like to host your own SOAR Fundraiser, we'd love to help! Whether a lemonade stand, donation collection, or larger event, we can provide marketing materials, including our logo, participant stories, and stats to help elevate your event!

HELP US SOAR!

SHOP SOAR

Represent SOAR in style!

SOAR has an online store where you can find your favorite SOAR swag! Every purchase not only supports the programs you love, but also helps us spread awareness about SOAR as you represent us in the community!



MORE GIFT OPTIONS

Recurring Gifts

Monthly gifts help us better plan for our future, fit in your budget, and help us strategically expand our programs!

Matching Gifts

Did you know many companies will match your personal donation to a non-profit organization? Talk to your employer to see if your gift to SOAR can be matched!

Legacy Gifts

You can remember SOAR in gifts through wills or living trusts, retirement plan beneficiary, or life insurance beneficiary designations, and more!

Tribute Gifts

You can make a donation to SOAR in honor of a friend or loved one!

In-Kind Gifts

We have an ongoing list of items needed for programs, participants, and events that can be found on our website or obtained by contacting our office!



info@soarfoxcities.com



(920) 731-9831



WISHLIST



GET IN TOUCH



211 E Franklin St. STE A
Appleton, WI 54911



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DONATE

