



Hi SOAR families, friends, and supporters,

Today we're excited to share an important update about sibling programming in our community and the future of WisconSibs' work.

**As of January 1, WisconSibs has officially joined SOAR Fox Cities.**

WisconSibs' youth sibling programs are now part of SOAR's family of services, and the sibling-focused programming you know will continue under the WisconSibs name as a dedicated part of SOAR's Family Programs. With this transition, WisconSibs' work now lives fully within SOAR rather than as a standalone organization, ensuring its mission continues with strong operational and programmatic support. This partnership strengthens long-term stability and ensures these meaningful programs remain available to families for years to come.

**What does this mean for families?**

In short: everything families value about WisconSibs remains at the center of these programs.

**What's Staying the Same**

- Youth programs will continue — Sibshops, Teen Retreat, SibDays of Summer, and SibCamp — with the same purpose, structure, and heart
- Program schedules and locations remain the same
- Tessa Lewis continues leading youth sibling programming
- Families will see the same volunteers and familiar faces
- The sibling-first culture and community that define WisconSibs remain unchanged
- Most importantly, the heart of WisconSibs stays the same — the kids, the connections, the energy, and the sense of belonging that make this community so special.

**What's Changing (Behind the Scenes)**

- Some administrative processes (registration, payments, forms) will gradually align with SOAR's systems
- Program fees saw a small increase this year due to rising costs; this was planned prior to the transition
- Families will begin seeing SOAR branding alongside WisconSibs

**What This Means for SOAR Families**

SOAR has always believed in supporting the whole family, and welcoming sibling programming into our services helps us live that value even more fully. This creates a more connected and streamlined experience for families - where siblings are seen, supported, and celebrated

alongside their brothers and sisters. It strengthens our ability to provide wrap-around care, resources, and community for the entire family unit.

### **Why This Partnership Matters**

SOAR and WisconSibs share a deep commitment to supporting families impacted by disability. Bringing sibling programming into SOAR helps ensure these services remain strong, sustainable, and accessible. It also allows SOAR to provide more coordinated support to families who are living with, loving, and advocating for someone with a disability.

**Sibling support is not being absorbed; rather, it is being preserved, strengthened, and intentionally prioritized.**

If you have questions about programs or the transition, we are here for you.

Tessa can be reached at:

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(920) 731-9831 ext. 132

You may also contact the SOAR office at any time!

**Thank you for being part of this community and for supporting sibling-focused care.** We are grateful for the trust families place in both WisconSibs and SOAR, and we are excited for what this next chapter makes possible.

As always, with gratitude,



Erin Schultz-Wege  
Executive Director