



# News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## Snake River Correctional Institution hosts kids day camp

Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) hosted their second Annual Dads4Life Kids Day Camp on August 10 and 11. In partnership with the Ontario Church of the Nazarene and the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery, activities were provided for children and their fathers to promote family bonding and interaction.



Dads4Life (Doing As Dads Should 4 Life) is a program that SRCI created to help meet the needs of incarcerated fathers and their children. Dads4Life holds numerous events throughout the year. The Dads4Life program has also created a support group that holds biweekly meetings to encourage pro-social behavior and the importance of family connections.



The atmosphere of the Day Camp was different from a regular visiting session. The fathers stated that it was a time they could actually be "normal" dads with their children. One participant, Inmate Ayers said, "I was so glad to have the opportunity to sit with my daughter and read a book or participate in an activity." SRCI strives to encourage stronger connections between fathers and children. Many families participating in these events hope to begin to mend the struggling relationships they've had with the fathers.

Debbie Blackaby, a member of SRCI's Prison Advisory Committee commented on the event. "I feel it is so important for the children to be able to spend this quality interaction time with their fathers, but also for the fathers to spend the quality interaction time with their children. I commend the fathers for the dedication and hard work on their part to be able to participate in this program. I also appreciate the work and dedication from the staff at SRCI that make this program possible, along with Pastor Tim Brewer, the Nazarene Church, and other community partners who donated to the success of the SRCI 2015 Dads4Life Kids Day Camp. The SRCI Prison Advisory Committee fully supports the Dads4life program and the



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**The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.**

kids camp because we understand that family connections make an inmate's release more successful and reduces the chance that these children will be incarcerated later on when they are older. It's a win-win."

SRCI is a multi-custody prison in Ontario that houses approximately 3,000 male inmates. It has multiple special housing units including disciplinary segregation, intensive management, infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care, and an administrative segregation unit. SRCI participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including a contact center, laundry, and sign shop. The facility opened in 1991 and is the largest correctional institution in the state.

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