



Firefighters Creating Memories Program

Fresno City Firefighters Providing Fun-Filled Memories to Children with Disabilities, Illness and Emotional Trauma

Now in its 15th year of operation, the Firefighters Creating Memories program will once again give children who might otherwise be unable to attend the Fair the chance to experience all of the fun and festivities!

This special program is made available to children who suffer from terminal or debilitating illnesses, physical limitations, mental disabilities or serious emotional trauma. The Firefighters Creating Memories treats children as Fair VIPs for an entire day. Two families are scheduled per day at the Big Fresno Fair with three to five firefighters to assist each family.

The children and their families are escorted by a dedicated team of firefighters throughout the Fairgrounds and offered access to every part of the fun, no matter what their medical condition. Children are aided in riding rides, playing games and experiencing the Fair to its fullest. This special program takes place Monday through Thursday, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday through Sunday, from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Firefighters Creating Memories program was founded by retired Fire Captain Bob Waterston and Battalion Chief Chuck Tobias. “The benefits of the program have exceeded our original goals. We have accomplished the primary goal of creating a lifetime memory for the disabled children that have participated in these events,” said Chief Tobias. It is a partnership of several service organizations including the Fresno Firefighters Association, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Children’s Hospital Central California; Break the Barriers, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, The Big Fresno Fair, Shamrock Shows and private businesses. All funding is provided by local businesses, the Fresno Fire Chiefs Foundation and The Big Fresno Fair.

Interviews Available: Invited Children and their Families; Battalion Chiefs Chuck Tobias and Casey Clark. (Request these interviews in advance.)



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