



NIGHT TO SHINE 2019 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -FAQS-

What is Night to Shine?

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. Churches from around the world will host Night to Shine on the same night for thousands of honored guests and we want you to be a part of it! Every guest of Night to Shine will enter their prom on a red carpet complete with welcoming friendly paparazzi. Once inside guests will receive VIP treatment including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, corsages and boutonnieres, limo rides and of course, dancing! The highlight of the night will come when every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned as a king or queen of the prom.

Who is Night to Shine for?

The event is open to anyone with physical or cognitive special needs, ages 14 and older. We do not have specific guidelines for the eligibility of guests in relation to the legitimacy or severity of their disabilities. If you have further questions about this, please contact us and we'll be happy to answer those questions.

When is Night to Shine 2019?

The event is on Friday, February 8, 2019 from 6PM- 9PM. Guest check-in will begin at 5:30 PM.

Where is Essex Alliance Church - Night to Shine 2019 being held?

Essex Night Church – Night to Shine will be held at The DoubleTree Hotel in Burlington, VT
Address: 870 Williston Rd, Burlington, VT 05403
Please enter at the conference center entrance at the rear of the hotel.

Is an invitation required?

Yes. This event is by invitation only. Invitations are non-transferable. Guests must register online.

How will guests be invited?

Essex Alliance Church has extended invitations to schools, centers and organizations in the local community dedicated to supporting individuals with special needs. If you have a guest you would like to invite please have them register as soon as possible at www.essexalliance.org/nighttoshine

How much does it cost?

Night to Shine is free for Guests and their Caregivers to attend.

Do Guests need chaperones?

Upon arrival, all guests will be matched with a Buddy to accompany them throughout the evening. While chaperones are not required, parents or caregivers are welcome to stay.

Is parking available at The DoubleTree Hotel?

Guests will be directed to park in the parking lot located near the conference center entrance of the hotel. This area is located in the rear of the hotel. There will be a drop off area for Guests at the conference center entrance in the rear of the hotel.

Is there a dress code?

Many of our honored female Guests choose to wear gowns/formal wear or nice dresses and gentlemen Guests wear a suit or tux.

Do I have to wear a suit/tux or gown to the event?

No, but if you would like to wear formal wear and do not have a gown or a suit/tux, we are holding a formal dress and suit exchange on: January 9th: 2:00 - 6:00pm and January 10th: 11 am – 4pm at Essex Alliance Church located at 37 Old Stage Road, Essex Junction, VT.

What will happen when you arrive at the event?

You will drive to the rear of The DoubleTree Hotel to the Conference Center entrance at which time you will either drop off your Guest at the main entrance or you can park car and walk to entrance. Assistance will be available for Guests at entrance if needed. Upon arrival inside, Guest and caregivers will go directly to registration area and be linked with to their “Buddy” for the evening. Buddies will accompany guests and their parents/caregivers to coat check. After checking coats, Parents/Caregivers can go directly to Respite Room. The Guest’s Buddy will then accompany the Guest throughout the event for the evening.

What is a buddy?

Buddies accompany and assist their assigned guest throughout the evening, providing companionship and any assistance they may need during the event. They sit with their guest during dinner, accompany them to the various entertainment and specialty stations, and engage with them in conversation. Buddies must be at least 16 years old.

Can I request a friend or family member as a buddy?

Yes. They must register as a Buddy, attend our volunteer orientation and complete the background check process like all other volunteers. We will do our best to accommodate your request but can't make any guarantees.

Will a meal be served?

Yes, Guests and buddies will be served a light buffet dinner, dessert and refreshments. A light meal, dessert and refreshments will also be available for parents and caregivers in the Respite Room.

Do guests need a date?

No, we encourage each guest to come and enjoy the fun with all of the other honored guests.

I've already gone to Night to Shine, may I come again?

Yes! We would love to have returning guests attend this year's event.

I'm a parent or caretaker, what should I do during the event?

While Night to Shine is happening, parents and caretakers are invited to the Respite Room. We'll have a light meal and dessert awaiting you so you can kick back and relax while those you care for are having the time of their lives! During online registration, please include number of attendees for the Respite Room.

Will limo rides be available again this year?

Yes. Limo rides for Guests and Buddies will be available this year. The limo rides will be an *optional* activity for Guests and their Buddies as they will not actually bring the Guest to the prom but will take a short ride around the hotel property. The rides will be available for Guests and buddies throughout the evening. Limos will leave the conference center area and drive a loop that is located on the DoubleTree property and return the Guest and Buddy to the same area.

What time should Parents/Caregivers pick up Guests after the event?

Parents/Caregivers should return to Hotel by 8:30pm to pick up Guest at 9:00pm.

What if the sounds/activities at the event become overwhelming?

We offer a Sensory Room where all guests are welcome to come enjoy a quiet and peaceful environment to rest and regroup. Sensory offerings will include crafts and games, aromatherapy, weighted blankets, comfortable chairs, and more. The Sensory Room will be in a separate area from the ballroom to allow for a quiet space.

What kind of care is available for guests?

In addition to uniformed EMT, safety, law enforcement presence, each Night to Shine location will offer a Sensory Room where guests can go if they become overstimulated. The Sensory Room will provide a quieter environment staffed by volunteers who will be on hand to encourage guests to participate in sensory-friendly activities and offer comfort as needed. Parents and Caregivers will also be close by in the Respite Room should they be needed for any reason.

What if it snows?

The show must go on—even if it snows! We'll have volunteers and equipment ready if snow is expected. So plan on the event happening regardless of weather conditions, and drive carefully to the Night to Shine location. In the event roads and highways are closed, and we are forced to cancel the event, we will publish notices on all of our websites and social media channels. Unfortunately, due to the massive coordination of catering, volunteers, and entertainment vendors, we would not be able to reschedule the event.