



Upping Our Armor Summer Freedom Fest 2022

People First Tennessee
The Arc Tennessee
Tennessee Council on
Developmental Disabilities
DIDD, and local support
providers

After all that came with 2020, People First TN needed a big re-start!



- ▶ Worked with our largest 45+ member chapter—People First of Dickson County—we organized lunch, drinks, activities and information for a public event in Middle Tennessee.
- ▶ Over 85 self-advocates, including families and professionals from DIDD + half a dozen support-providers in Middle and West TN came to attend.

People gathered at a 1930s landmark in Montgomery Bell State Park



Summer 2022
Freedom Fest
highlighted materials
including

1. People First membership
2. Voting info
3. Accurate/Easy-to-Read info on COVID vaccination

Plenty of bottled water kept everyone hydrated as people joked around, talked, hugged, danced, and laughed!



People First made the gathering relaxed and casual, and guests got important information to discuss or share with others.



People First Tennessee and Cumberland County chapter's Gage Brothers talked about self-advocacy, the must-have never-give-up attitude, and the importance of self-determination, self-respect and safety.



- ▶ The large space with plenty of windows for ventilation-ideal for our event!
- ▶ Standing Post-It note boards for with info and for people to use



LUNCHTIME!

Dedicated staff and volunteers made sure that everyone got sandwiches, chips, and cookies—even seconds and thirds to hungry Festival goers!



Also there: People First's Advisory Council member Jimmy Parnell attended with a group from provider Waves Inc.



We kept safe with sanitizing wipes and fresh air!



**Friends
reconnected
—that hadn't
seen each
other in
years!**





**LIVE DJ +
\$500 gift-
card Give-
aways!**



Post-It boards and hand-outs with info all about safety, voting, and our rights!





We are so grateful for the outstanding support professionals across the state, without whom we couldn't express our freedoms in just the same way!

Thanks to all the dedicated people at Tennessee's Dept. of IDD, and the invaluable generosity and crucial planning skills of leadership and staff at Developmental Services of Dickson County; an affiliated chapter of The Arc.

Thanks to financial support from local Support Providers, and National Self-Advocacy organizations SABE and SARTAC, and Tennessee's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

We were all so happy to be out of our hidey-holes—seeing people and friends that we hadn't in a very, VERY, long time!

