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
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 cards Giveaways!
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!