

Cameron Childspree Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Cameron Childspree?

The Cameron Childspree is a back-to-school shopping experience for abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes because of life-threatening circumstances. This is an incredible opportunity for these children who would otherwise not have new clothes for the upcoming school year. Each child is paired with an adult volunteer who will help him/her make their clothing selections, and accompany them to an in-store breakfast party.

Who is Child Advocates Inc.?

Child Advocates, Inc. of Harris County mobilizes court appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. We speak up for abused children who are lost in the system and guide them into safe environments where they can thrive.

When is the Cameron Childspree benefiting Child Advocates?

The Cameron Childspree is on Saturday, August 15th. All volunteers will arrive at their designated Target store at 6:00am the day of the event.

Who gets to shop?

The children that will be shopping are all in the custody of the state due to abuse or neglect by their guardians. These children rarely get the opportunity to buy new clothes for the school year, but with the help of Cameron, Target, the Junior League of Houston, and others in the community they are given \$100 and approximately 1½ hours to shop for back to school items.

How much money do the kids get?

The children do not receive cash. Instead, once they have made their clothing selections they will go to the register and “check-out”. Each child will be able to purchase up to \$100 worth of clothing.

What does a volunteer shopper do?

Each volunteer will be assigned a child with whom they will walk around the Target store and assist in picking out appropriate back to school gear, with the help of a shopping guide which has been filled out by their guardian.

How am I paired with a child?

The day of the event, as the children arrive, they will be randomly matched with a volunteer.

Am I allowed to purchase anything for the child?

Each child is given \$100 with which to purchase clothes and shoes. Volunteers are not required to spend any of their own money on the child, but if they choose to do so, are asked not to spend more than \$10. The money that is allotted for each child is plenty. Other children will be upset if they are not granted the same act of kindness.

To which Target location will I be assigned?

You will designate your preferred store location on the registration form. You must choose your first, second and third choice store. You will receive a confirmation email telling you what store you have been assigned once the background checks have been returned.

Why do I need a background check?

In the interest of safety, not only for the children, but also for that of the volunteers, Child Advocates Inc., Target and Cameron, we ask that all volunteers complete a registration form and background check. This check will locate criminal history on the county and state level as well as any history with Children Protective Services.

Where do I get the background check forms?

There is a background check form on our website: www.childadvocates.org

When do I turn in the background check?

The background check must be completed and turned in by June 19, 2009.

Can I bring my kids?

No one under 21 will be admitted into the store while the Childspree is underway. Anyone who comes to the store must be a registered volunteer and must have a completed background check. Volunteers will be asked to leave the store without shopping if they bring anyone who is not a registered volunteer.

Can I take pictures?

No. Due to confidentiality, cameras/video devices are not allowed at the event except by designated Child Advocates Inc. staff.

How long will the event last?

The event will last approximately 2 ½ hours. Each Target store is open only to our kids and their volunteer shoppers from 6:00am-8:00am. The store will open to the public at 8:00am. Children and volunteers will be served breakfast in the designated area of the Target store as soon as the shopping is completed.

Will I get breakfast?

Yes. Target is generously providing breakfast for all the children and their volunteer shoppers.

What should I wear?

Wear something comfortable and appropriate.

Do I need to do anything before the event?

All volunteers must complete a volunteer registration form and a background check and have these forms turned in to Child Advocates by June 19, 2009 to participate in the event. Other than that, volunteers are only required to bring their smiling faces to their assigned store at 6:00am the day of the event.