



PA-TSA 4 KIDS

TS Awareness Month

Join the movement!

May 15 – June 15

Pennsylvania recognizes May 15 – June 15 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month. There are lots of events and activities, both large and small, throughout Pennsylvania! Come join us ... get involved!

Activities



- ⇒ Create an Awareness bulletin board in your community
- ⇒ Tell a Friend about TS
- ⇒ Join our Youth Advocate Program (YAP)
- ⇒ Post to Instagram, Twitter or Facebook
- ⇒ Offer a training to your school, sports team, or club (You don't have to do the training, PA-TSA can help!)



Events

- ⇒ TS Day at the Capital – May 6
- ⇒ Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community - May 16
- ⇒ TS Family Camp – June 12-14



PA-TSA 4 Kids

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ TS Awareness Month
- ☺ Games & More!
- ☺ Tell It Like It Is
- ☺ Youth Stepping Up
- ☺ YAP...What's That!



Go to our website at
www.patsainc.org

This newsletter was made possible through a grant provided by:



GAMES

SUDOKU



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Sudoku Answer Key:

Riddles for FUN!

- 1: Take away my first letter, and I still sound the same. Take away my last letter, I still sound the same. Even take away my letter in the middle, I will still sound the same. I am a five letter word. What am I?
- 2: A house has 4 walls. All of the walls are facing south, and a bear is circling the house. What color is the bear?
- 3: You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?
- 4: A man was driving his truck. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. Up ahead, a woman was crossing the street. How did he see her?

1. EMPTY

2. The house is on the north pole, so the bear is white!

3. The match

4. It was a bright and sunny day!

Tell It Like It IS!

This is a new addition to our PA-TSA 4 KIDS. We ask teens and young adults about their experience with TS!

Rocky Bohrer

Tattoo artist and Vice President R B Services, loving husband, and father of three



What is the hardest part of having TS?

My mental tics ... I have a hard time with these because my wife and kids can't see or hear the tics to know that I am ticcing.

If you could tell your younger self something, what would it be?

"EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT!"

What is something good about having TS?

Having TS has shaped me into the person I am today.

Do you still experience tics?

Every day. I twitch my nose, wink, rub my pinkies against my ring fingers, sniff, clear my throat, close my truck door two times, I have this counting tic that is hard to explain ... and I'm sure I am missing some. But I really don't think about it too much.

When during your life were the tics most severe?

My sixth grade year. That was right before I was diagnosed. It was the most horrible school year ever. I was picked on so much that year.

What was the most difficult time of your life with your TS?

The most difficult part of my life was finding who I am and what I would do to support myself and my family. I have done a lot of different jobs. I have managed to be an auto body technician, a car sales specialist, worked in a warehouse, dabbled in a machine shop for a short time (couldn't stand still long enough for that one), became a successful tattoo artist (still am), and finally my life time goal will be coming soon ... I am currently the Vice President of RB Services and the Owner of Roland Bohrer Castings. Growing up I told myself that I would own a business. I have, at the age of 31, completed that goal!

The views of the interviewee do not reflect the views of the PA-TSA. Every individual experiences different tics, severity and co-morbid conditions. The above article represents the views and experiences of the interviewee alone.

**Do you have a story to share?
We want to hear about it!!
Submit your picture and/or story
to Sabrina Bosse at
Sabrina@patsainc.org.**



Youth Taking the Lead!

We are excited to share our NEWEST volunteer position, **Camp Junior youth mentor**. This position will be offered first at our 2015 TS Family Camp. It will be an honor to hold one of these limited positions. The positions are offered to teens and young adults ages 17-20. Up to five junior youth mentors will be selected to assist our adult youth mentors at camp each year. Our junior mentors will gain leadership skills to help them successfully transition into helping at future camps as youth mentors, as well as other aspects of their lives. In addition, this will be a wonderful opportunity to gain experience that will look great on resumes and college applications. Those interested are asked to submit an application before the deadline each year. Members are selected based on their qualifications and a personal interview. Stay tuned for a full report on the implementation of this exciting and unique new PA-TSA program!

**Step up and
make a
difference!**

What is YAP?

Our YAP program grew out of a hope to promote acceptance and empower youth at our yearly TS Family Camp. Since 2011, this training program provides young people with the information to create a bulletin board, an information board and give a brief training on Tourette Syndrome. The training includes a short PowerPoint so that a young person can train his or her classmates, scout troop, sports team or other peer group to learn the basics of Tourette Syndrome. In 2012, information was added to help children "tell a friend" that they have TS -- which can be scary to do!

If you are a youth ages 12-25 and would like to join our YAP program you no longer need to attend camp! We have recorded a webinar to provide the same training to anyone in Pennsylvania!

Want to join? Have questions? Contact Sara at saraw@patsainc.org.



Aries Noel, a new member of YAP, coordinated with the media department at his high school to make a film of him presenting a peer training about TS. This short video was shown to his entire high school of 1113 students during morning announcements!

Now that is spreading the word!

Sydney Esquivel really took charge by leading the training of his peers at Gettysburg Montessori Charter School. With the help of PA-TSA's Assistant Administrator, Sabrina Bosse, he trained the fourth, fifth & sixth grade students on Tourette Syndrome. Sydney's training helped his peers understand what he is going through and also helped two other students in those grades also diagnosed with TS.

Way to go Sydney!

What are they up to?



Left to right: Sydney Esquivel and Sabrina Bosse