



For Immediate Release  
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## **New Mexico State Fair Creates New “Sensory Station” for Special Needs Fairgoers**

The New Mexico State Fair is launching a new program to enhance the fair experience for all our visitors, including those with special needs or who may require accommodations.

The new “New Mexico State Fair Sensory Station” will provide a safe space for our sensory sensitive and special needs fair guests to de-escalate, and provides low-key and helpful sensory input activities. In addition to sensory input activities, there will be regular visits with the kids from the State Fair Ambassadors (therapy dogs) and meet and greets with the State Fair queen. The Sensory Station will be set up in the Youth Hall and open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM every day of the fair.

“The fair can be overwhelming for some guests, and we are pleased to team up with the New Mexico Autism Society and other local organizations to provide a space where families can take a break from the crowds and noise,” said Dan Mourning, General Manager of the New Mexico State Fair. “The Autism Society has provided critical feedback and guidance to ensure the new station allows us to provide the best experience for our young fairgoers.”

"Providing an accommodation like the ‘Sensory Station’ at this year’s State Fair is a huge step in inclusion, awareness, acceptance and opportunity in the community! We could not be more proud that New Mexico's own State Fair is leading the way in making this accommodation for other fairs throughout the United States. We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact that the Sensory Station has on those with special needs that attend the State Fair," said Sarah Baca,

In addition to the active involvement of the autism society, several other organizations and individuals have stepped up to volunteer their time and expertise at the Sensory Station. They include the following:

- Autism Learning Partners
- Autism Spectrum Therapies
- Behavior Change Institute
- Bridges
- Centria
- Chatterbox
- ExplorAbilities
- KidPower
- Pathways Academy
- New Mexico Autism Society Board of Directors
- UNM-CDD
- Explora

The state fair also appreciates donations and support from Rio Grande Foam in helping to make the new Sensory Station a success.

The New Mexico State Fair runs September 7 – 17. For more information, log onto [exponm.com](http://exponm.com).