

Manteca Pumpkin Fair Special Access Day

Each year the Friday before Pumpkin Fair is "Special Access Day". This is a day that is devoted especially for the developmentally disabled. Children and adults between the ages of 18 months and 80 years are given a very special time at the Fair. This event draws between 900 and 1,200 attendees.

The day begins around 9:30 AM when these very special people start arriving. They are taken to the events center and allowed to ride any rides, play all the games, do the Pumpkin Blaster and go thru the Corn Maze all for free. Then they come back and get their faces painted and enjoy the morning. At lunch time they are served hot dogs with all the trimmings donated by Carls Jr., Frito-Lay, St. Joseph's Medical Center and Sierra Spring Water. After they have this great lunch live entertainment is provided by Jeff Hillstrom. It's a wonderful sight to see all the attendees get up and dance and just enjoy the music. When they are ready to leave each attendee receives a Trick or Treat bag filled with all kinds of goodies, provided in part by Arvin Home Systems, Wal-Mart, Sierra Office Supply & Printing, Pentel of America, Golden Valley Federal Credit Union, California Milk Advisory Board, J&J Printing and many more. They are also given Pumpkins to take with them thanks to the generosity of the Manteca Pumpkin Growers Assoc.

This is the 21st year for Special Access Day. We now cover both San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties with more than 22 facilities attending. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors like Storer Coachways, J. R. Simplot Co., Manteca Ambulance, Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi, Kiwanis Club of Stockton, Manteca Noon Kiwanis and all the volunteers this very special day is always a success. We have often been told that this is an event unlike any other for these children and adults. It is a day that all of us enjoy. The smile on their faces is well worth the time and effort that is put into the day.

