

Monthly Calendar

August 2021 Events and Programs

ADULT ADOPTEE, BIRTH PARENT & DNA DISCOVERIES

General Discussion Meetings

Support and discussion groups for adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, adoptive parents, prospective parents, professionals, and anyone interested in exploring the lifelong journey of adoption. August meetings will be virtual. Individuals from any location are encouraged to join. All meeting times are shown in Eastern Time. Preregistration is required. Visit our website calendar and click on the date of your choice to register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>. For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

Virtual General Discussion Meeting Dates

August 3, 8-10 pm ET **DNA Discovery Support Group** led by facilitators Becky & Oliver

August 5, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Elaine

August 10, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy

August 11, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice,
Special Topic: Exploring Our Fears Surrounding Adoption

August 19, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

August 26, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

Annual Summer Cookout Sunday, August 19, 2-5 pm ET

Memphis Picnic Shelter - Cleveland Metroparks

Our Annual Summer Cookout is a free event for anyone connected to Adoption Network Cleveland. Each year, we gather for a fun afternoon of games, activities, entertainment, and food. Please join us, we would love to see you! This year to insure the safety of our guests, Adoption Network will be providing packaged hot dogs and drinks. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic with sides for their family. Please note - This will not be a potluck and families will not be sharing food.

Location: Memphis Picnic Shelter - Cleveland Metroparks: Memphis Picnic area is located at the intersection of Memphis Avenue and Tiedman Road in Big Creek Reservation. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/CookoutANC2021>

DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, August 3, 8:00-10:00 pm ET

If you have either found family using commercial DNA testing or been found by family who used commercial DNA testing (examples of commercial DNA testing are Ancestry or 23&Me, etc.) then this is the group for you. You do not need to have a formal adoption connection to be in this group, but you do need to have a DNA discovery for this group to be relevant to you. Examples include individuals with a known connection to adoption but also, individuals with unexpected parentage results among those not adopted such as unknown child discovery, unexpected niece, nephew or cousin discovery, individuals discovering they are donor-conceived or adopted (late discovery adoptees); anyone who has found unknown siblings. international adoptees connecting to family including cousins, unexpected grandparent discoveries, and the many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, August 4, 7:00-9:00 pm ET

Our Birth Mother Support Group is facilitated by Lindsey and Nikki and provides a safe and supportive environment to help with the complexities that are often part of the adoption experience. The meetings are open to birth mothers connected by the lifelong journey of adoption and are an opportunity for birth mothers to encourage one another in their healing process through discussion and interaction.

We invite birth mothers to join this group of women, who are at different places on the same journey, to give and receive understanding and support. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Programs are provided free unless otherwise noted. Programs indicate whether they are offered virtually or in-person.

Family Ties Program

This program includes a monthly group where adoptive, kinship, and foster families meet, share experiences, and learn from each other and featured presenters. To find out more: <http://bit.ly/FamilyTiesatANC>.

Social Activities for Families (In-Person)

Thursday, August 12, 6:30-8:00 pm ET

Camp ANC at Lakewood Park

Registration required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

We will meet in person this month in an outdoor adventure in Lakewood. Join us for smores, tie-dye and games for the whole family! We will catch up, make new friends, and have some fun! Please register so that we can plan for the event: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>. Rain date will be August 26.

Parent Discussion (Virtual)

Tuesday, August 24, 6:30-8:00 pm ET

Back to Basics: Managing School & Family Time

Adoptive, kinship, and foster parents and guardians are invited to join us for a discussion on parenting, family, and the unique joys and challenges of being a part of an adoptive, kinship, or foster family. In this session, we will discuss how, as a parent, do you balance the needs of school and work while still incorporating family fun time, self-care, and opportunities to strengthen your bonds? We will discuss truths, strategies, and share successes. Certificates of Attendance will be available. Registration is required to receive the link: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Girl Code & Guy Code (Virtual):

Girl Code: Tuesday, August 10 6:00 pm ET

Guy Code: Wednesday, August 25, 6:00 pm ET

Virtual opportunities for youth ages 13-18 to meet online with peers in a facilitated conversation will be provided for boys (Guy Code) and girls (Girl Code) separately. The groups provide an opportunity for youth to engage in age-appropriate discussions and activities with peers to explore self and group topics in terms of adoption and foster care, as well as youth development. For more information and the link to access the meetings, contact Donikea Austin at donikea.austin@adoptionnetwork.org.

Family Park Pals (In-Person)

Saturday, August 21, 11:00 am-12:00 pm ET

Euclid Creek Reservation, 1198 Highland Road

Join us as we check out the sites, nature centers, trails, and wildlife in our beautiful Metropark system! Meet at the main entrance off of Euclid Creek Parkway and follow the signs. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Discussions on Race & Family (Virtual)

Tuesday, August 17, 6:30-8:00 pm ET

August focus: Allyship

Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to offer a series of facilitated virtual discussions on Race and Family this summer, co-hosted by The Weaving Cultures Transracial Family Group and our Family Ties program. Parents, guardians, and other family caregivers of adoptive, kinship, and foster families are invited to join in the discussion. You do not need to be part of a transracial family to attend! Together, we will explore different aspects of race and family, and how we as parents and caregivers of children can talk with them honestly about issues of race. Discussions will also include how issues of race intersect with adoption, kinship care, and foster care. Expect discussions to include interactive breakouts. Registration is required through our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Parent Training (In-Person)

Saturday, August 14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

A World of Opportunities: High Risk Behaviors are Hidden in Plain Sight

#988-50, Trainer Tamme Smith

To register: private agency foster parents should have their agency worker contact Nefertiti McKinney at (216) 881-4048; public agency foster parents should register online at the OCWTP website; adoptive and kinship parents can contact Julius Jackson directly at: julius.jackson@adoptionnetwork.org or (216) 482-2324.

Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?

Workshop (Virtual)

Saturday, August 28 9:00 am-12:00 pm ET.

Many couples and individuals hoping to become parents or to expand their families look to adoption. This endeavor can be both exciting and overwhelming. There is so much information available about adoption that people often ask, "Where do I begin?" Adoption 101 is a three-hour workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time and will provide a realistic overview of the adoption options and the process involved in each from both professionals and parents. The information and resources offered will help individuals make a decision about the best route for their adoption journey. Adoption Network Cleveland is a neutral source of information, as we are not an adoption agency.

Member cost: \$20 per person and \$35 per couple
Non-Members: \$35 per person and \$55 per couple
Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.