



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Snake River Correctional Institution hosts event to strengthen father/child relationships

Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) held a “Dads4Life” family picnic on July 17. The program is designed to help meet the needs of incarcerated fathers and their children. The event hosted 25 inmates and their families, and included a barbeque lunch, games, face-painting, and other activities. SRCI staff helped create a very enjoyable and relaxed event for the families.

The Dads4Life event is based on the Children and Families component of the Oregon Accountability Model, which encourages productive relationships between families and inmates to strengthen ties and increase the likelihood of success upon release. Research has found that communication between incarcerated parents and their children has the ability to improve child development, increase the caregivers’ mental and physical health, and decrease incarcerated parents’ levels of stress.

Research also shows that visiting can significantly reduce recidivism. While it can be challenging for incarcerated fathers to stay connected with their children, SRCI (the state’s largest prison) is taking steps to lessen the impact of that challenge by providing men in custody with unique opportunities to improve relationships with their children.

“While our visiting center meets the basic needs of adults in custody, events like Dads4Life help meet the specific needs of fathers and children,” said Superintendent Mark Nooth. “We are providing an opportunity for families to participate in activities that closely mirror what they can be doing after they are released – spending quality family time together, eating, and having some fun. These moments help build stronger family relationships, which are not only good for the visiting family members, but helpful in the rehabilitation of the fathers.”

SRCI is a multi-custody prison in Ontario that houses approximately 3,000 male inmates. SRCI has multiple special housing units including disciplinary segregation, intensive management, infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care, and an administrative segregation unit. SRCI participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including a contact center, laundry, and sign shop. SRCI specializes in incentive housing, specialized housing, inmates with mental health/medical vulnerabilities, education and trades programs, cognitive and parenting programs, and institution work programs. SRCI opened in 1991 and is the largest correctional institution in the state.



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The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.