Coach Involvement

Thank you so much for being part of Coach to Cure MD. Thank you also for considering having a family to be part of your day. Below are some FAQ's regarding having a family at your game.

**How do I request a family at a game?**

Simply include that on your registration form (there is a place for it there) or email rachel@coachtocuremd.org or danielle@parentprojectmd.org. Either contact is fine. We will do our best to fine a family in your area to represent Coach to Cure MD.

Once we find a family we will let you know and connect you to that family. At that point your school contact will be in direct communication with the family regarding your game day events.

**What should I provide for the family?**

We ask that you provide tickets for the immediate family members for the game. Some schools give the boys other things such as jerseys, or a signed football for example. These are wonderful gifts but not expected.

**What do families typically do to participate in the game?**

Many different things! Many schools have the boys participate in the coin toss and then they are introduced at some point before or during the game. We have a press packet that has sample in-stadium announcements at www.coachtocuremd.org.

Other ways boys have participated at other schools:

- Attend practice the week before the game
- Come to the Friday night team dinner
- The school has made a PSA video with Duchenne boy and coach and played it in-stadium
- Invited a Duchenne boy to the coach’s weekly press conference
- Walked with the team into the stadium

We also invite you to help us generate press for this event. Our families are willing to be interviewed about Coach to Cure MD.

**Will most boys be in a wheelchair?**

Most boys over 12 years old will be in a wheelchair in some capacity although they may still be able to get out and walk a little. Boys younger than 12 will probably have a stroller or manual chair, but they may be a little more mobile. The families are used to navigating places with wheelchairs, but it is obviously a great help if you can consider that in your plans.
What should I know about Duchenne MD?

It is a progressive degenerative genetic disease that affects mostly boys. Boys with Duchenne (pronounced DOO-SHIN) are usually diagnosed from the ages to 3-6, but they have had the disease since birth. They lose their ability to walk around age 12 and lose their battle with Duchenne often in their late teens or 20’s. There are many more clinical trials, but to date there is not an effective treatment or cure for Duchenne MD. Current research is trying to slow down the progression of Duchenne, but it remains a fatal disease. Boys with Duchenne are usually cognitively fine (although they may have some learning or emotional issues). While they boys may seem shy and reserved, please know that you are impacting their lives in a very positive way. Boys with Duchenne spend much of their lives in doctors’ offices, taking multiple medicines and not being able to participate in typical kid things such as sports. Inviting them to your game is a great way for them to have a special day.

What if I want to learn more about Coach to Cure MD or Duchenne?

We have attached here messaging points for you to have for Coach to Cure MD. You may also visit our website at www.coachtocuremd.org. Learn more information about Duchenne at www.parentprojectmd.org