1.1 CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

1.1.1 The Job
Reunions are a family event for many alumni. The job of the Children’s Programs Chair is to help make the experience fun for everyone by coordinating children’s activities during the reunion weekend.

1. Together with the Reunion Chair(s), decide the extent of children’s programming the class is going to undertake, if any; coordinate the budget for these activities with the Finance Chair.

2. Build a schedule for children’s activities for the weekend, taking into account the expected age range of the children, the reunions schedule, including any designated adults-only activities, and any other sources for children’s activities.

3. Coordinate for a children’s area at the Headquarters site with the Headquarters Chair (if needed).

4. Communicate Tiger Camp information (forms can be found on the Office of Alumni Affairs Reunions site).

5. Coordinate with other major reunion classes if you wish to co-sponsor activities.

6. Arrange for entertainment and/or vendors.

7. Publicize the children’s activities in reunion mailings, on social media, and during Reunions.

1.1.2 Related Information

Tiger Camp. Tiger Camp is a child care/entertainment program offered by the Princeton YWCA through the University during Reunions weekend. This is a supervised child care arrangement with experienced care providers. Children are grouped by age and have age-appropriate activities. Tiger Camp generally has two different locations on campus: one for infants-age 5, and one for ages 6-12.

Reunion attendees deal directly with the YWCA in contracting for services. Typically the YWCA offers child care from 6:00 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday, including dinner. Parents may sign children up for one night or both nights, depending on availability. Charges are per child, and there are early registration discounts. Walk-ins are not permitted. For security reasons, each Tiger Camper and parent receives a coordinating wristband. Children must be signed in and signed out by a parent.

Reunion courtyard activities. Many classes provide children’s activities as part of the children’s reunion package at the headquarters site. These are not supervised childcare or babysitting programs, but rather programs where parents can enjoy the reunion with their kids. Activities have included carnival-type games, pony rides, moonwalks/bouncy houses, rock-climbing walls, DJs, magicians, science demonstrations, soccer and Frisbee games, video screenings, clowns, balloon artists, arts and crafts projects, and face painting. These activities provide entertainment as well as an opportunity to tie into the class theme. Many classes designate an outdoor and indoor children’s area at the Headquarters site. The outdoor area (usually a small tent) provides a home base for children’s activities.
and entertainment throughout the weekend. The indoor location can provide a quiet area in their Headquarters/dorm area for a children’s rest location and/or show supervised movies, play video games, etc. during some or all of the band hours at night. This should be coordinated with the Reunion Chair and Student Crew Chair during the planning process.

If the reunion is providing children’s activities, it should be made clear in all communications about the program that parents are expected to remain nearby and that activities for the children require supervision by their parents.

**Babysitting.** The University stays out of the childcare arrangements other than Tiger Camp and the Class should not be involved either. Reunions should not offer “babysitting” as there are serious responsibility and liability issues involved. Alumni are permitted to bring a babysitter or hire one locally. All arrangements should be made privately by the parents/sitter.

**Multi-class events.** Classes sometimes arrange to share activities as described above, or to co-sponsor other kinds of events. Past examples include an on-campus family concert, soccer scrimmage and sports clinics. This is a great way to offer alternatives to parents who have children that are older or younger than the average ages of the other children attending the reunion.

**Teen programs.** For Reunions with many teenagers attending, it makes sense to have special teen programming. While teenagers often want to escape their parents’ reunion courtyard, having great programs just for them will help them have a great weekend too. Outdoor Action has many activities that are appropriate for teenagers. Other ideas include movies, sports, and panels on preparing for and going to college. You can also arrange with Campus Dining and your Food Chair for special meal tickets for use at the Frist Campus Center.

**University-wide activities.** There are often many things going on across the campus that may be of interest to families. Check the Reunions website for the list of kid-friendly activities.

**Children’s costuming and P-rade accessories.** As the Children’s Program chair, you might work with the Costumes and/or P-rade Chair to create special giveaways and costume accessories that are just for children.

**Vendors and other help.** All vendors for children’s activities must obtain University approval, which can be coordinated through the Office of Alumni Affairs. In addition, vendors providing inflatable attractions must be listed on the Reunions Approved Vendor list. Be aware that some entertainment—such as ponies or a moonwalk—may require arrangements with University Departments (such as Buildings and Grounds) or need special permits. Communicate your ideas to the Reunion Chair and the Office of Alumni Affairs and submit all requisite contracts to the Office of Alumni Affairs for approval.