



SOTA

Rocky Mountain College SOTA Newsletter

November 2021

First Annual *Trunk or Treat* a Sweet Success!

by Amanda Bluhm OT/S Rocky Mountain College

Picture this – one hundred and twenty pounds of candy... What does that even look like? Good question. It looks like a community of organizations and students coming together to serve around 1000 people for the sake of being awesome. It looks like the smile on the faces of kids who were able to fully

participate in trick or treating, some for the very first time.



Laura Christensen, Photo Booth

showed up with decorated trunks and support for the event as well. “I was amazed at the amount of people that came out,” reflected OTD student, Katelyn Mislivecek. “The community showed up for this one and I was proud to be a part of a Halloween event that is welcoming to any child.”

Patrons of the event were invited to vote on the most creatively decorated trunk. Congratulations to OTD students Jenni Giannuzzi, Kyra Wood, Kyra Beane, and Emmy O’Connell, for being crowned the winner for their Candy Landy themed ride!



Contest Winner! Candy Land theme



Bailey Hyatt, Día De Los Muertos theme

Scoring Big in Special Olympics

By Madalyn Martin OT/S Rocky Mountain College



Special Olympics is a global organization that holds sporting practices and events for those with or without intellectual and physical disabilities. During the months of September and October 2021, Idelene Medrano, Chesney Walker, Justyn Juhl, and Alexia Wilson volunteered twice a week with the Special Olympics team to play basketball. Justyn Juhl shares that being a part of these events are meaningful because moving our bodies in an enjoyable environment helps define occupational therapy and benefit mental and physical health. She stated, “...Just knowing that these events are one of the things in life that they look forward to most and being a part of that alone is something that I find most enjoyable!” The girls made great friendships with those on the team and hope to continue playing seasonal sports

year around! The team played their last game played on October 30, 2021. The students that volunteered previously and now have always had a great experience being a part of the program.

The Road to Independence with Adaptive Driving Equipment

By Madalyn Martin OT/S Rocky Mountain College

The RMC 2024 cohort took a day to Faith Chapel's parking lot to learn from Nicole Gross (OTR/L) on driving a vehicle with adaptive equipment. The vehicle had both the gas and break controls on the steering wheel, so it can be controlled with arms and hands instead of the legs. This experience gave the Occupational Therapy students hands-on experience on a world that looks into what some individuals do to maintain independence. Most of the students realized that it took a lot of concentration and multi-tasking to maintain a steady drive. Mrs. Gross provided case studies of individuals who might benefit from adaptive equipment in cars such as wheelchair bound individuals. This experience allowed students to see what assistive technology can do and a specialized field Occupational Therapists can do. The RMC students are greatly thankful for the experience and time Mrs. Gross gave for two days to show them what is available for maintaining their independence.



Walking K's for a Cause

By Amanda Bluhm, OT/S Rocky Mountain College

Rocky's OTD students & SOTA members have been busy walking this fall. Several showed up to show their support at the *Walk to End Alzheimer's 5K* on the RMC campus and yet others participated in the *Buddy Walk* at the Billings Zoo. When speaking about her experience at the event, class of 2024's Katelyn Mislivecek said, "Seeing all the different colors of flowers representing different connections to Alzheimer's was very moving - it reminded me that you never know what obstacles people are facing and how important it is to treat people with kindness." Moving words for a moving experience.

The time at the zoo for the *Buddy Walk* was accompanied by Professors Roberts and Thompson and was said to have been so much fun and an overall great time. Having experienced Buddy Walks before, for student Mackenzie Becker this one was especially unique and special while it was spent at the t-shirt stand. "I was able to talk with so many kids, parents, and people just showing their support, about their lives and reasons for walking. It was also great meeting so many people who wanted to proudly show their support by wearing a t-shirt with the Buddy Walk logo on it. I had multiple people come up to tell me about all the shirts that they own from the past walks they participated in, which was great to hear!" Thank you, Mackenzie, and everyone who participated in these events, for representing well our program, our school, and our profession; keep on keepin' on.

