



Building Your Organization's Awareness: Autism Certification

Introductions



Parks & Recreation



Fire & Rescue



Police



IBCCES

Gilbert Fire & Rescue Department





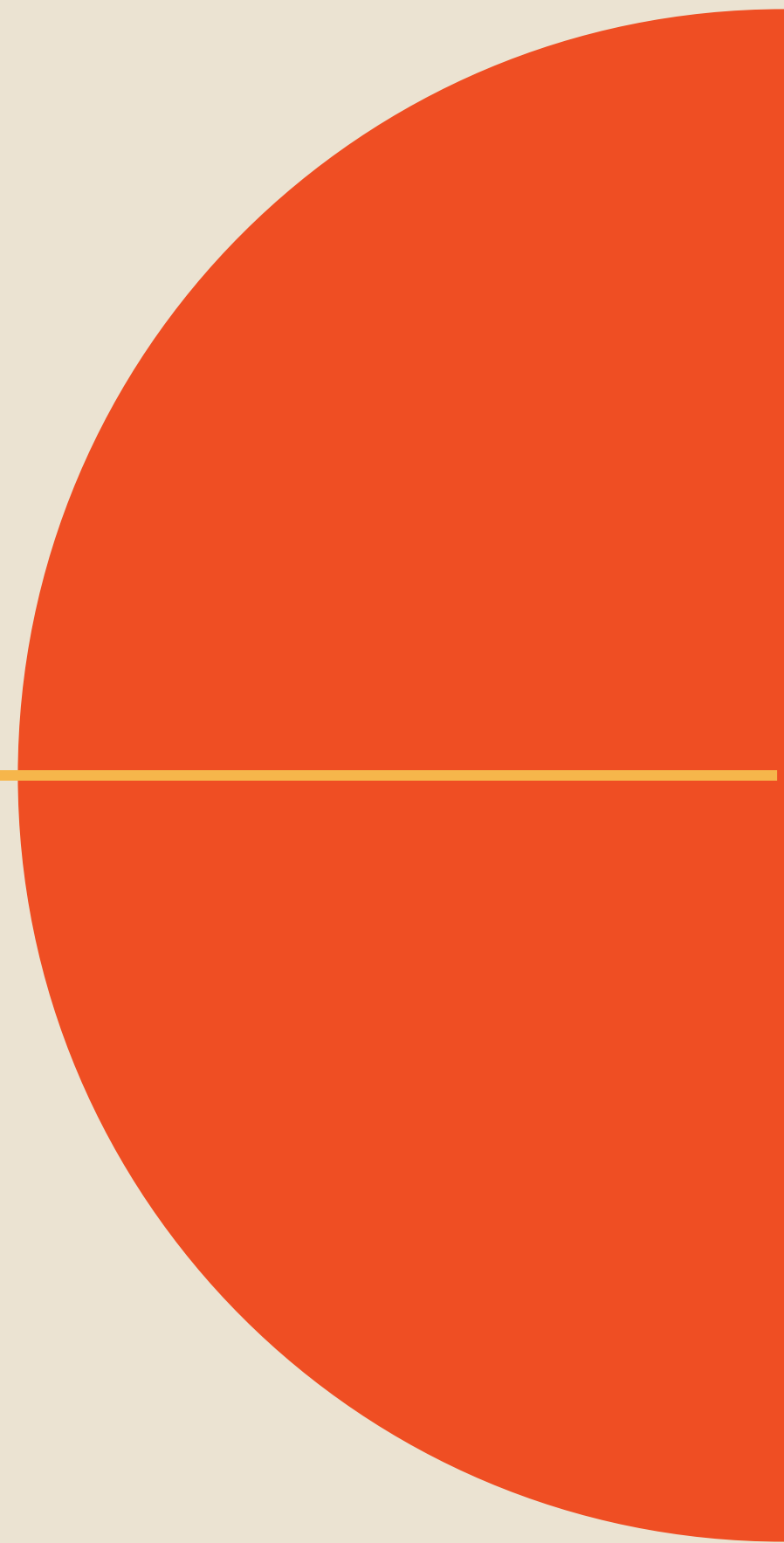
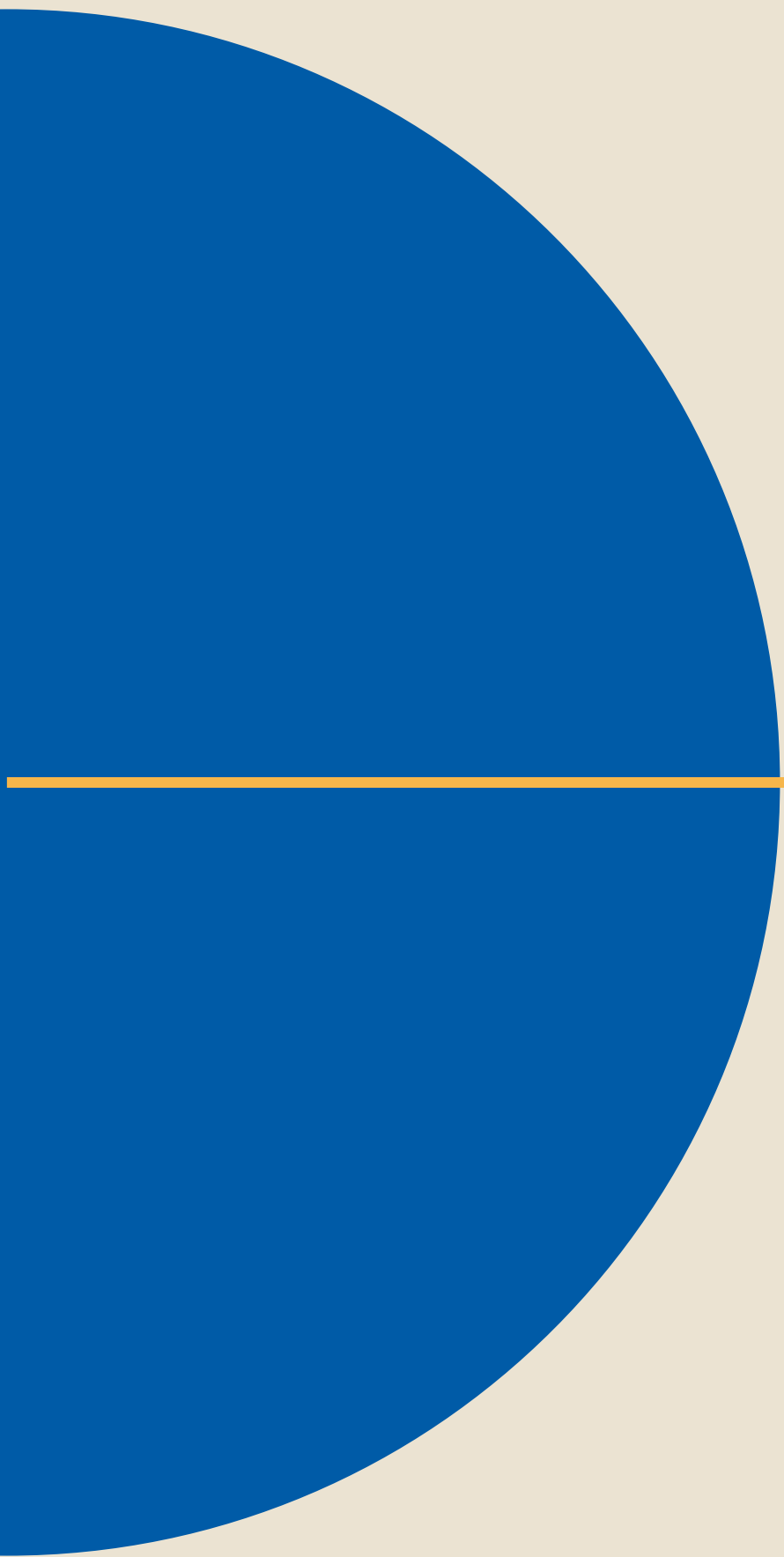
And it's those who start
with why, that have the
ability to inspire those around
them or find others who
inspire them.

Start
Simon Sinek

Start with Why

PD Video







Your Place to Play

City of Mesa Autism Awareness Initiative

First Certified Autism Destination in the World

Training

- 300 Frontline Staff
- 15 Leadership Trainers
- 16 Law Enforcement
- 2 Aquatics

Resources

- Sensory Guides
- Sensory Bins
- Information Handouts
- Dedicated Staff

Impact

- Snowball Effect
- New Perspective
- Increased Adaptive Program Participation
- Increased Inclusion Requests
- Increased Staffing Levels

Success Stories



Park Ranger Buy-In

- Ranger Academy
- Situational Assessment
- Communication Skills

Beyond the Participants

- Inclusion is for everyone
- Equity in representation
- Including unique perspectives



Shaping a new
tomorrow, today.

Gilbert Parks & Recreation Autism Awareness Initiative



Impact

100% Trained

Every staff in the department will participate in one of the levels of training offered.

Low Sensory Areas

Calming or quiet areas are created in facilities and special events to designate low sensory spaces.

Sensory Bins

Bins are to be available at all sites with noise-canceling headphones, fidgets, and more.

Inclusion Advisory Group

Establish an advisory committee of parents of a child with a disability to provide input on projects.

Sensory Guides & Signage

Five locations completed a sensory audit through IBCCES and the information is located on the website for Gilbert visitors.

Inclusive Playgrounds

Webpage dedicated to inclusive and accessible playground details for families.

Success Stories



Summer Work Program

Partnered with U of A Summer Work Program for high school students with disabilities to work in the recreation centers.



New Employees

The summer work program sparked additional hiring of people with disabilities in the programs and at the facilities.



Inclusion Requests

Over 65 requests for a program modification for one summer session.



Making waves
in the desert

City of Tempe Autism Awareness Initiative

Taking a New Approach

- **Training:** 1,000 employees are trained, and additional departments plan to join the initiative.
- **Internal Training:** Developed customized training for specific groups to best support their knowledge and needs.
- **Departments:** Tempe Police, Tempe Fire and Rescue, Kid Zone, Human Resources and Community Services
- **Buildings:** 5 locations were audited, and sensory guides were created which are now displayed at each location.
- **Parks:** 5 parks were audited including all 125 acres of Kiwanis Park. All sensory guide recommendations are being evaluated for inclusion in the Department Master Plan.



Ongoing Support



Sensory Bags & Handouts

Sensory bags with fidgets, noise-canceling headphones, and communication support items as well as handouts about the autism initiative is available for check-out at all facilities.



Well-trained Staff

Tempe has taken the initiative beyond only forward-facing staff. The customized training provides benefits to the entire employee base.



Communication Boards

Communication boards give a voice to non-speaking, non-English speaking or children with speech difficulties so they can engage with their peers or make new friends when at the park.



Shaping a new
tomorrow, today.

Police Department Autism Awareness Initiative

Gilbert PD Autism Awareness Initiative

IBCCES Certification Roll-Out

Started

February 4, 2022

45 Days

Completed

March 21, 2022

Partnerships

- Lauren's Institute For Education (LIFE)
- Sensory Awareness Family Event
- Trader Joes
- Arizona Autism United Run
- ["Bring Me Home" Program](#)



Gilbert PD Goals



Curriculum

Create a curriculum for continuing education, training, and local resources for staff.



Dispatch

Communications will present to clients at LIFE for calls to 9-1-1.



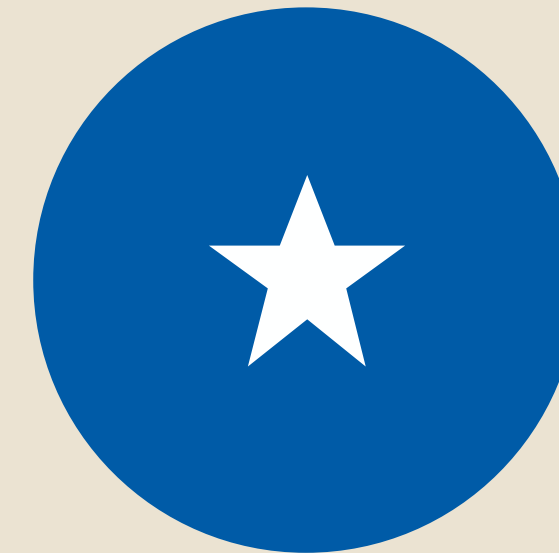
Sensory Kits

Creating and distributing Sensory comfort kits for all front-facing staff.



Mock Traffic Stops

Prepare drivers with autism through mock traffic stops.



Changing Legislation

Allow anyone with a neurodivergent or other disability to include information on the vehicle registration, license plate, or driver's license to aide first responders.



Shaping a new
tomorrow, today.

Fire & Rescue Autism Awareness Initiative



DRIVEN

KIND

BOLD

HUMBLE



Raising Autism Awareness in Gilbert

Gilbert Fire & Rescue

IMPLEMENTATION

Belonging & Fulfilling



gilbert

ABC 15 News

Gilbert Public Safety now certified in Autism Awareness Training

| Sophia Merriman



ABC15 ARIZONA | AT 10

VALLEY AGENCY CHANGES HOW THEY RESPOND
TO CRISIS CALLS TO A PERSON WITH AUTISM



Call to Action

Arizona Museum of Natural History (Mesa)
City of Benson Visitor Center
City of Tempe
i.d.e.a. Museum (Mesa)
Goodyear Police Department
Gilbert Fire & Rescue
Gilbert Parks & Recreation Department
Gilbert Police Department
Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Arts Center
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Fire & Medical Department
Mesa Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities
Mesa Police Department
Mesa Public Library
Payson Police Department
Peoria Sunrise Mountain & Main Branch Libraries
Town of Queen Creek Fire & Medical Department
Town of Queen Creek Parks and Recreation
Queen Creek Police Department





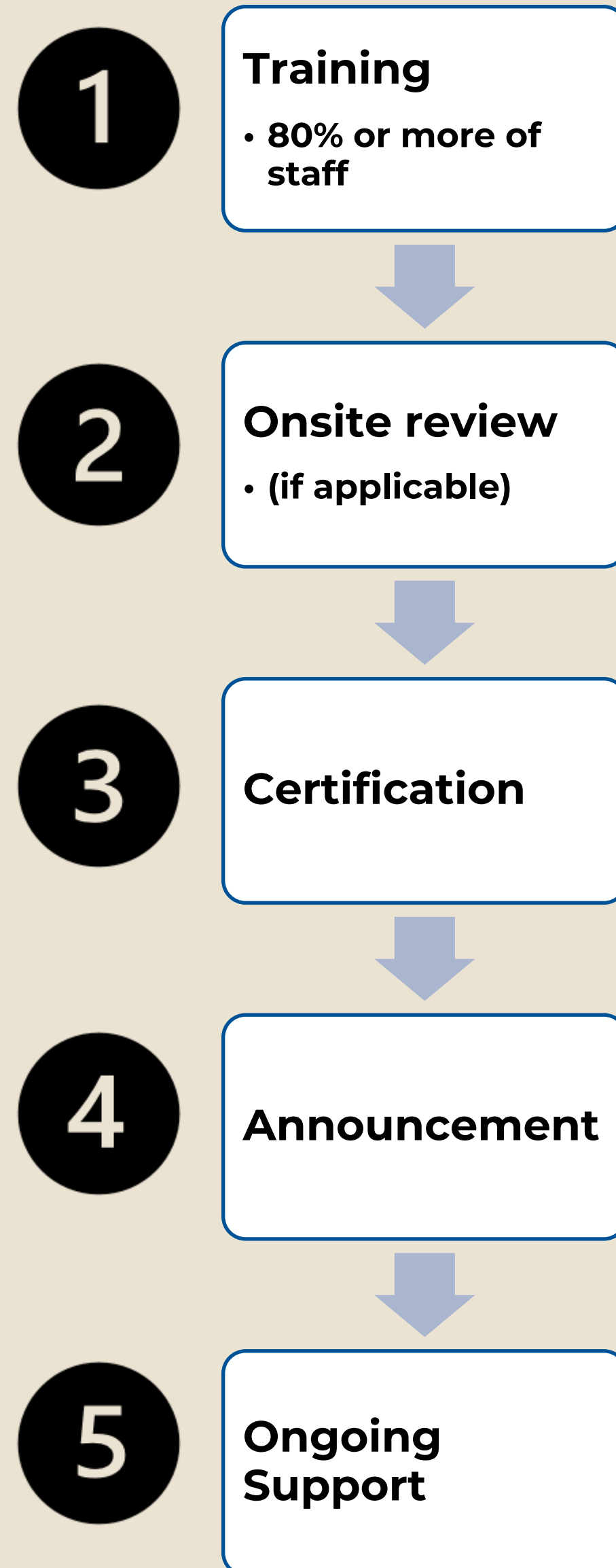
Recognizing Individuals
Dedicated to Promoting
Quality Care

IBCCES: Certified Autism Center

Certification Steps

Meredith

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Different types and levels of training depending on:

SETTING	LEVEL/ROLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Responders• Law Enforcement• Parks and Recreation• Workplace Neurodiversity (internal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manager, entry level, specialized role

>> NEXT STEPS:

- If interested in more information, email me
- We can set up a call to discuss staff #s, process etc. (pricing varies by size of org or department and # of staff)
- A pricing proposal will be generated from that conversation
- Once proposal is signed, we work together to plan the implementation timeline





QUESTIONS



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Thank you!