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Kalahari Resorts and Conventions Plans ‘Sensory Friendly Certification’ For 2020 With Sensory City

Sandusky, Ohio (January 27, 2020) — [Kalahari Resorts and Conventions](http://www.kalahariresorts.com) is known for its family-friendly atmosphere and expansive indoor waterparks, and now it has committed to making its Sandusky, Ohio property ‘Sensory Friendly’ by February 2020 with the help of [Sensory City](http://www.sensorycity.org), a Boston-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping families and children with disabilities.

“I’m so happy that Kalahari Resorts and Conventions values inclusion and accessibility. They truly understand what it means to meet the needs of those with less visible, but not less important disabilities. We are thrilled to help them accomplish this,” said Tanya Acosta, Executive Director of Sensory City.

Kalahari will begin the certification for its employees with Sensory City’s online training in sensory awareness and solutions to help accommodate adults, youth and children with sensory needs such as Autism, ADHD, Down syndrome, PTSD, dementia, etc. This will be the first resort of its type to be fully ‘Sensory Friendly Certified’ in the Midwest. In addition, Kalahari has created a sensory room where individuals who experience sensory overload can enter to retreat from an over-stimulating environment. This room will include bean bags for sitting and other sensory items. Upon request, the Kalahari staff will supply Sensory Kits, Safety Kits and Comfort Kits to guests.

These kits will be available to reduce overstimulation and help soothe and comfort guests who may experience sensory issues. The custom Sensory Kits include communication boards for non-verbal guests, noise cancelling headphones and sensory toys such as fidget gadgets. Safety Kits are available to help guests have more of the comforts of home while traveling and will include outlet covers, a soft ice pack, motion detector door alarm, soft glow night light, and an identifying contact wristband. Comfort Kits contain a weighted blanket and sensory eye mask.

“As a father of five, I know the challenge of family travel with a child on the autism spectrum, so it is a passion of mine to be able to provide this resource for families who are enjoying precious time together,” said Brian Shanle, General Manager, Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Sandusky. “Kalahari and its associates prioritize inclusion and meeting the needs of all of our guests, and this is just another way for us to offer a beyond expectations experience.”



For information on becoming 'Sensory Friendly Certified' please visit www.sensorycity.org and to learn more about Kalahari Resort and Conventions visit <http://www.kalahariresorts.com/Ohio>.

About Sensory City

Sensory City is an organization that is dedicated to helping children with disabilities. The Boston based non-profit is striving to make family outings more enjoyable and accessible for families and persons with disabilities. Founded in 2018 by Tanya Acosta, an accredited Speech Pathologist, who is also the Director of Boston Speech Therapy. She is a bilingual speech and language pathologist with more than 15 years of experience working with children who have sensory needs. Tanya's inspiration for creating this organization is her son Colin, who was born with Down Syndrome and has sensory issues. Sensory City is rapidly growing within the hotel, travel and amusement industry.

About Kalahari Resorts and Conventions

Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, Sandusky, Ohio, and the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania, deliver a "world-away" waterpark resort and conference experience beyond expectations. The authentically African-themed Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, privately owned by the Nelson family, are home to America's largest indoor waterparks. All Kalahari Resorts feature well-appointed guest rooms, full-service Spa Kalahari, a fully equipped fitness center, on-site restaurants, unique retail shops and a state-of-the-art conference center. Kalahari Resorts and Convention Centers frequently receive awards and accolades for our guest and convention services. Recent recognition includes: Condé Nast Traveler's #1 World's Coolest Indoor Waterparks, TripAdvisor's 2014 Travelers' Choice Awards, Silver Star recognition for Best Family-Friendly Meeting Hotel and Resort in Smart Meeting's 2014 Smart Stars Awards, Clean the World's Top 50 Hot Properties in 2013, January 2015 OpenTable's Diners' Choice Award for Double Cut Grill's signature dining experience for the second consecutive year, the Daily Herald's 2014 Reader's Choice Awards for Best Indoor Waterpark, selection as one of the nation's Top Family Resorts by Family Fun magazine for 2013, being named the Best Conference Center in the state by the Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association, and selection as the Corporate Meeting Destination of the Year by Cleveland Business Connects magazine. For reservation and guest information, call 1-877-KALAHARI (525-2427) or visit: KalahariResorts.com. To learn more about Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, members of the media are encouraged to visit KalahariMedia.com.

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