



nssra  
Northern Suburban Special  
Recreation Association

# Community Partnerships: INCLUSION



# What is NSSRA?

*Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association* (NSSRA) is an extension of the Park Districts of Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Kenilworth, Lake Bluff, Northbrook, Northfield, Wilmette and Winnetka; the cities of Highwood and Lake Forest; and the Village of Riverwoods. These are known as NSSRA's partner agencies.

NSSRA works with its partner agencies to provide support to residents in their community and enable the resident's ability to participate in park agency programming of their choice.



## Inclusion Services

*Inclusion provides a choice* for individuals of varying abilities to experience recreation programming within their community. NSSRA and partner agency staff work closely with the participant and family to provide enriching recreational experiences in the least restrictive environment while maintaining safety and confidentiality.

Inclusion services are offered to residents of NSSRA's thirteen partner agencies at no additional cost to the family. Inclusion support may come in the form of one or more of the following: program observation, staff training, program modifications/adaptations, modified equipment, and/or a companion.

An Inclusion companion's role is to blend into the program with the partner agency staff while providing the appropriate amount of support to promote independence and growth in the least restrictive environment. A companion can support 1-3 participants (depending on their needs).

# Requesting Inclusion Services

*When registering for a program with one of NSSRA's partner agencies:*

- Mark the accommodation section of the registration form.
- Once the registration form is submitted, the partner agency will contact the family to discuss the type of Inclusion support needed for the participant.
- The partner agency will provide NSSRA with an Inclusion request that contains both program and participant information.
- The family is then contacted by NSSRA to further discuss the needs of the participant and get input on the type of support needed.
- NSSRA will work with the partner agency to put the necessary Inclusion accommodations in place for participation in the desired program(s).
- Communication between NSSRA, partner agency staff, and the family continues throughout the Inclusion process.

## Reasons to Request Inclusion Services

- A parent or family member recognizes that their participant would benefit from additional support in a park agency program.
- The partner agency staff identify a need for additional support, for safety and programmatic reasons and communicates this need to the family.



# Questions?

Each of NSSRA's partner agencies has a contact at their agency that is available to answer questions regarding Inclusion. Please contact this person to see if Inclusion is the right choice for your participant.

NSSRA's Recreation Manager for Inclusion, Meggan Davies, can also be reached at (847) 509-9400 x6828 or [mdavies@nssra.org](mailto:mdavies@nssra.org).



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