

## QUESTIONS?

Each of WSSRA'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.

WSSRA's Inclusion Manager, Christopher Sturm, can also be reached at (847) 455-2100 x235 or [chriss@wssra.net](mailto:chriss@wssra.net)



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WEST SUBURBAN SPECIAL  
RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Community Partnership  
**INCLUSION SERVICES**

## WHAT IS WSSRA?

West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) is an extension of the following: Berwyn Park District, Park District of Forest Park, Park District of Franklin Park, Norridge Park District, North Berwyn Park District, Park District of Oak Park, River Forest Park District, Veterans Park District, Village of Elmwood Park, Village of Harwood Heights, Village of River Grove, Village of North Riverside and Village of Riverside. WSSRA works with its partner agencies to provide support to residents in their community.



## INCLUSION SERVICES

Any individual who registers for one of our partner agency programs and has a special need is eligible for inclusion services. Inclusion services are offered to residents of WSSRA twelve partnership agencies at no additional cost to the family. Inclusion provides a choice for individuals of varying abilities to experience recreation programming within their community.

WSSRA and partner agency staff work closely with the participant and family to provide an enriching recreational experience in the least restrictive environment while maintaining safety and confidentiality.

### ***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 inclusion aide.

An Inclusion aide'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.

## 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 identifies a need for additional support, for safety and programmatic reasons. Then the agency reaches out to WSSRA for possible resources. WSSRA will follow up with the partner agency on possible support strategies.

## REQUESTING INCLUSION SERVICES

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

- Mark the appropriate "Special Accommodation's" section on the registration form/ or tell the person you are registering with to fill out special accommodations needed.
- 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 WSSRA with an Inclusion notification that contains both program and participant information.
- The family is then contacted by WSSRA to further discuss the needs of the participant and get input on the type of support needed.
- WSSRA will work with the partner agency to put the necessary Inclusion accommodations in place for participation in the desired program(s).
- Communication between WSSRA, partner agency staff, and the family continues throughout the inclusion process.

## BENEFITS OF INCLUSION

- Provide leisure opportunities that allow for performance at individuals highest level of ability.
- Ensure individual freedom of choice.
- Foster learning opportunities for all individuals of all abilities.
- Celebrates diversity and awareness of individual differences and similarities.
- Promotes a sense of independence in leisure activities.
- Meeting the individual needs through acknowledgment of interests and abilities that contribute to participation.