

Inclusion of Individuals with Disabilities Policy

Caroline County Recreation and Parks encourage individuals with disabilities to participate in recreation programs. These programs include, but are not limited to, sports, outdoors, special events, trips and general recreation programs. CCRP is pleased to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Reasonable accommodations for participation are made on an individual basis. The term “INCLUSION” means that individuals with disabilities are “included” in our recreation programs and summer camps.

When a child or adult with a disability is registered for a program and requests special accommodations, the recreation specialist and inclusion coordinator follow several steps to ensure successful integration. These steps include insuring that reasonable accommodations are made, such as accessibility, adaptive equipment, camp specific training, interpreters and companions. In order to implement its inclusion effort, Caroline County Recreation and Parks will:

- ♣ Train Department staff
- ♣ Foster community awareness
- ♣ Increase resources for program operation
- ♣ Develop an outreach program

“Integration does not mean individuals with disabilities will become normal, but rather they will be given every opportunity to fit into society to the greatest extent possible and that society will be more accepting of them.”

Goals of Inclusion

- ⊗ To provide equal recreation opportunities.
- ⊗ To focus on the preference of individuals rather than on the disability.
- ⊗ To eliminate the philosophy of isolation and segregation as an end in itself.
- ⊗ To provide alternatives in recreation by increasing the opportunities of choice
- ⊗ To support individuals being included by providing reasonable accommodations that will enhance the recreation experience.
- ⊗ To encourage individuals to participate in recreation activities at their maximum level even if that means only partial participation.
- ⊗ To decrease dependency by encouraging skill and confidence building experiences
- ⊗ To promote recreation activities for individuals appropriate to their chronological age.

Reasonable Accommodations

Caroline County Recreation and Parks will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities upon request. The department asks that you notify the department office of your/program participant’s needs at the time of registration and/or at least **2 weeks** in advance of the program start date. Certain accommodations, such as the provision of a program companion, require at **least 4 weeks**.

Examples of accommodations we will provide include:

- ♣ Allowing service animals in programs;
- ♣ Changing the rules of games/activities – as long as it does not fundamentally alter the purpose of the game/activity;
- ♣ Moving the program/activity from a non-accessible location to an accessible location;
- ♣ Providing accessible transportation within a program;
- ♣ Providing qualified sign language interpreters and or assisted listening devices;
- ♣ Providing information in large print, Braille, on disc, or readers; and
- ♣ Providing additional staff.

This is not an exhaustive list of the accommodations the Department will provide. When an accommodation is requested, we will work with you to enable you or your program participant's successful participation.

Personal & Invasive Services Policies

Services we do not provide include those that are personal in nature such as feeding, toileting, or the changing of clothes. We also do not provide services that are invasive in nature such as injections, catheterization, g-tube feeding. However, we will allow the person who requires such services to bring their own personal care attendant, at no charge, to enable their participation.