

WHAT IS SEASPAR?

SEASPAR (the South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation) is a special recreation association that serves residents of twelve communities in DuPage and Cook Counties.

WHAT ARE INCLUSION SERVICES?

Inclusion provides a choice for individuals of varying abilities to experience recreation programming within their community. SEASPAR and member entity 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 SEASPAR's twelve member entities at *no additional cost to the family*.

HOW ARE INCLUSION SERVICES DELIVERED?

Inclusion services may come in the form of one or more of the following: program observation, program modification/adaptations, modified equipment, visual aids and sensory tool kits, staff trainings, and/or support from an inclusion aide.

WHAT IS AN INCLUSION AIDE?

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



SUCCESS WHEREVER YOU
CHOOSE TO PLAY



4500 Belmont Road
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Serving the residents of:

Village of Brookfield • Clarendon Hills Park District
Darien Park District • Downers Grove Park District
Village of Indian Head Park • Park District of La Grange
Community Park District of La Grange Park • Lemont Park District
Lisle Park District • Village of Western Springs
Westmont Park District • Woodridge Park District



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SEASPAR INCLUSION SERVICES

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SEASPAR Inclusion

OUR INCLUSION PHILOSOPHY

SEASPAR strives to provide progressive services which will ultimately enable an individual to actively participate in the community recreation program of their choice. Inclusion involves a variety of supports to meet different participant needs. Needs and resources will be assessed to determine the appropriate support for the participant within the program. The need for support for an individual can vary from program to program, season to season. SEASPAR will work to increase the participant's independence so that they may participate in the least restrictive environment.

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone with a qualifying disability identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) registering for one of SEASPAR's member entities' program is eligible.

An individual has a qualifying disability within the meaning of the ADA when they:

- a. Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities;
- b. Have a record of such impairment; or
- c. Are regarded as having such an impairment.

MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES

"Major life activities" are defined as functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, thinking, concentrating, working, and interacting with others. Physical characteristics, personality traits, or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages are not covered as disabilities under the ADA.

BENEFITS OF INCLUSION

Even the most minimal changes can be beneficial for individuals with special needs at program. Benefits of inclusion include:

- 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
- Celebrate diversity and awareness of individual differences and similarities
- Promote a sense of independence in leisure activities
- Meet individual needs through acknowledgment of interests and abilities that contribute to participation

REASONS INCLUSION SERVICES ARE REQUESTED

- The accommodations section is marked upon registration. The participant is diagnosed with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- A parent or family member recognizes that their participant would benefit from additional support in the member entity program.
- The member entity staff identifies a need for additional support for safety and programmatic reasons and communicates this need to the family.
- However, if the participant does not meet all essential eligibility requirements and the code of conduct for the program, the concerns for safety and programmatic reasons go beyond the scope of inclusion services.



HOW TO REQUEST INCLUSION SERVICES

Requesting inclusion services can seem like a daunting task. Luckily, we're here to help guide you through the interactive process so that you can focus on what's important – the participant's success.

Note: Inclusion services are typically requested at the time of registration while enrolling in programs or services offered by one of SEASPAR's member entities.

1. The family/guardian of the participant will register for the park district/recreation department program and mark the "special accommodations" box on the registration form.
2. Once the registration form is submitted, the member entity will contact the family and direct them to complete the Inclusion Intake Form, found on the SEASPAR website.
3. Based on the information received, SEASPAR and the member entity will develop and prepare an Inclusion Support Plan to determine the appropriate level of support needed to create a successful environment.
4. Communication between SEASPAR, member entity staff, and the family continues throughout the interactive process.

QUESTIONS?

Each of SEASPAR's member agencies has a contact person who can provide answers to questions regarding inclusion. Please contact this person to see if inclusion is the right choice for your participant.

