

What is inclusion?

Inclusion with the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities (PRCF) means that individuals with disabilities are welcome to participate in the same recreation programs and activities as their non-disabled peers. Reasonable accommodations are provided to enable an individual's successful participation in a program. Some minimum eligibility requirements must be met in order to participate.

Inclusion Program Mission Statement

The mission is to provide well-balanced, safe, accessible, and affordable recreational and leisure opportunities to the community. The City of Mesa PRCF will provide the least restrictive environment in which an individual can function within a recreation setting, develop a climate of acceptance through community awareness and support in order to eliminate attitudinal barriers and stimulate the greatest amount of enjoyment and participation in a general recreation setting.

What are some examples of reasonable accommodations available to promote successful participation?

- Ongoing training provided for inclusion support staff.
- An enhanced staff to participant ration (15-day written notice from parent required)
- Sign interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Adaptive activity equipment and/or supplies.
- Accessible transportation is provided with two weeks' advance notice when transportation is provided as part of an activity or program.
- Assistance in the provision of health services, which do not require medical training.

What are the minimum requirements for successful inclusion?

The same minimum requirements that apply to a person without a disability also apply to a person with a disability. These include:

- Meeting the age and registration requirements of the program.
- Following the rules of conduct (with or without reasonable accommodation).
- Voluntary participation: recreation programs and activities are voluntary in nature. Participation will be encouraged and aided, but not forced.
- Level of participation: with or without reasonable accommodations, the participant will engage in scheduled activities for the majority of the program time.
- Ability to use a consistent form of communication to indicate basic needs and follow simple directions.
- Ability to tolerate and function, with assistance, as a member of a large social group (12 or more people).

What services is not part of an inclusion program?

Inclusion services does not include the following:

- Provision of a separate area or alternate activity for a significant portion (more than 25%) of the scheduled program.
- Exception to minimum compliance with the program's rules and regulations, with or without accommodations, established for safety of all participants and staff.
- Hiring, selection, or guaranteed assignment of a specific staff member.

- Individualized therapy within a program.
- Provision and/or purchase of personal custom devices.

Is an inclusive recreation program the right choice and/or experience for my child?

Observe the program first-hand and ask yourself these questions...

- If school-aged, does your child’s current classroom activities or goals prepare him/her for an inclusive recreation experience?
- Has the individual shown an interest in the program, activity, or subject matter?
- Is he/she comfortable and able to function appropriately, with or without assistance, in inclusive environments (malls, restaurants, parks, etc).

What other choices are available for individuals with disabilities?

The City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities also offers alternative choices through specialized recreation activities that are offered specifically for individuals with disabilities ages 8 through adulthood. The adaptive program offers a wide variety of opportunities including sports, recreation, and social opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities.

Inclusion Request Procedure

An “Inclusion Support Request Form” must be received 15 days prior to the start of the program to allow for adequate time to assess the request. Please be sure to indicate the “Activity Number” of which the individual is registered for on the request form.

- Requests will only be considered if there is room in the program for an additional participant. If the class/program has already reached it maximum number of participants, the registration office will contact the parent/guardian to communicate that the class is already full.
- Once a request is received, the parent will be contacted to discuss the specific needs of the child.
- If an inclusion aide is assigned, he/she will contact the parent prior to the first day of the program to introduce self and inquire about any special needs and considerations the child may have while attending the activity.
- All attempts will be made to accommodate the needs of all participants, however, due to staffing restraints, days and times may be limited.
- If a request is received less than 15 days before the start of the program, all attempts will be made to accommodate the request, however, due to time restraints, requests may not be filled.

Please note: All attempts will be made to accommodate the needs of all participants, however, due to staffing restraints, days and times may be limited. **Requests must be received at least 15 days prior to start of a program.**

To be filled out by the Recreation staff:

Date Received: _____ Date Contacted: _____ Contact Name: _____

Assessment Done: _____ By Staff: _____

Type of support desired: _____

Action Taken: _____

Inclusion Aide Assigned: _____ Confirmation sent: _____

Additional Comments: _____