

Fairfax County Park Authority - Inclusion Fact Sheet/Frequently Asked Questions -

*****All requests for ADA accommodations should be made
at least 10 business days in advance of your start date*****

To effectively accommodate your son/daughter, FCPA staff can provide the following accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- Camp staff training: facilitation styles, communication methods, implementation of behavior plans, modification/adaptation of activities, etc.
- Provide sign language interpreters upon request.
- Ensure physical accessibility to all sites and program offerings.
- Utilize the services of the Inclusion Specialist during summer camp operations to help problem solve participation issues/needs/ADA accommodations.
- Unlimited one to one support is not provided.** Trained Leisure Coaches are available on a *limited basis* to help facilitate ADA accommodations and, depending on the assessed needs (profile form/parent feedback) of the customers. Leisure Coaches may be responsible for supporting multiple customers with disabilities at a given location.
- Leisure coaching services do not provide one to one support for physical assistance such as personal care, balancing and assistance with ambulation.* Leisure Coaches are provided to help facilitate reasonable accommodations on a short term, transitional basis. Parents have the right, under the ADA, to provide their own volunteer/staff to support these needs, including personal care.

***** Mid-August through Labor Day*****

Camp access to Leisure Coaches is extremely limited. Leisure Coaches (teachers, instructional assistants, and college students) generally return to school during that time frame. ADA accommodations and an accommodation plan are provided for the camp staff/customer***

- Personal care support: staff can develop a formal restroom schedule and provide guidance in the restroom; however, leisure coaches are not trained to provide any other types of personal care.
- Preschool camps do not provide personal aides and parents must make their own arrangements to ensure personal care needs are met.

With or without accommodations, customers must comply with the camp code of conduct and engage in scheduled activities for the majority of the program time. Participation is encouraged and aided, but not forced.

What is the staff to customer ratio?

- Rec-PAC Targeted Inclusion Summer Camp Sites: 2-3 Leisure Coaches provide support within the various age groups. General staff ratios remain 1:18 at these sites. **Inclusion Leaders are assigned to these specific locations for the duration of the camp. Leisure Coaches are available at other Rec-PAC locations upon request.**
- RECenter/Park/Specialty/School Based Camp Sites: ADA accommodations are provided for these camps as well; however, requests for Leisure Coaches are based on need and determined by the ADA Coordinator/Inclusion Specialist.

If a Leisure Coach is utilized to facilitate transition/participation, that support, while not limited, is generally targeted for 3 of 5 days for 1 week camp sessions and 5 of 10 days for 2 week camps sessions. General staff ratios in these camps range from 1:10 to 1:15, and 1:8 to 1:10 for preschool camps.

Important Note: Depending on the overall needs of the customers with disabilities, the number of camps operating at the site, and the age group assignments, additional Leisure Coaches may be added to a site to effectively support the inclusion experience.

When is leisure coaching support withdrawn?

With the exception of the Rec-PAC targeted inclusion summer camp sites, if a customer with a disability demonstrates the ability to participate at a level of independence similar to that of his/her peers without disabilities, including meeting expectations listed in the FCPA Code of Conduct, leisure coaching support is typically withdrawn. Participation levels are continually monitored to ensure this level of independence is maintained and, if needed, leisure coaches can return to the site to help problem solve. The ADA Coordinator/Inclusion Specialist/Leisure Coach will discuss the withdrawal with the parent/guardian prior to ending services along with the camp staff. The withdrawal of support is based on feedback received from general staff, leisure coach, parent, and Inclusion Specialist.

Appeals Process: An appeals process is available in the event the parent disagrees with the staff assessment for withdrawing support and a consensus cannot be reached. Note: Therapeutic Recreation Services staff members from the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services are utilized to complete an independent assessment.

How are children grouped during activities?

- Rec-PAC Camps: children are *typically* grouped by grade level: 1st – 2nd graders, 3rd – 4th graders, etc. (child may be placed in different grade level due to staffing)
- Park/Specialty/RECenter Camps: typically by age, 6-7, 7-8, 9-10, etc.
- Preschool camps, ages 3-5, are generally grouped together for most activities.

What is the environment like?

Camp programs are ***generally very stimulating with frequent transitions.*** *The environment is noisy and active with a variety of large group and small group activities; structure varies camp to camp; general recreation activities are planned throughout the day with a varying number of camp participants. Camps located in FCPA parks are subject to extended periods of time in “hot” weather conditions.*

Rec-PAC Inclusion Camp sites do provide quiet areas for customers needing some time to “chill” and engage in briefly individualized activities such as reading and drawing. Parents are encouraged to bring their own resources if a “chill time” is conducive to your son/daughter’s needs. Other camp locations can accommodate the need for quiet time but isolation away from the camp is generally difficult (staffing/physical limitations).

Is Inclusion the right choice for my child?

- Does your child show interest in the program activity or subject matter?
- Is your child comfortable and able to function appropriately, with or without assistance, in various inclusive environments, such as parks, malls, restaurants, parks, (etc.)?
- Does your child’s current leisure activities or goals prepare him/her for an inclusive experience?

- Is your child able to maintain the ability to use a consistent form of communication to indicate basic needs and follow simple directions?

What can I expect from the Extended Care programs?

- Extended Care Programs (Rec-PAC does not operate pre or post daycare) are generally unstructured and primarily revolve around self-directed activities. ADA accommodations will be provided and a *Leisure Coach can help jump start/facilitate participation in the program.* Staff ratios are typically 1:18.

Will the staff dispense medications or assist with feeding?

- Staff are provided with basic medication administration training and will administer medication or medical procedures with proper authorization.
- Staff will assist with the unwrapping or preparation of lunches/snacks.

How will other children accept my child (will they be nice/friendly/open)?

- Staff are trained to facilitate your child's participation in group activities and to encourage/foster social relationships with other camp members.
- Generally speaking, customers with disabilities have very few issues developing appropriate friendships with other participants at the camp location. Staff can implement Sensitivity Awareness activities to help ensure appropriate interactions or eliminate inappropriate behaviors on the part of other campers. Bullying is NEVER an acceptable behavior and will not be tolerated.
- Staff will also promote the buddy system to help develop a cooperative group environment.

Is transportation provided to and from the program site?

- The FCPS does not provide transportation to or from the home. FCPS buses are utilized for most camp field trips and are typically not equipped with air conditioning. Lift vehicles are available upon request.

How will the ADA Accommodations be determined?

- Based on information gathered from the phone interview and the Customer Profile Form, staff will develop a written Accommodation Plan that details specific needs and strategies for the customer as agreed to by the parent, and shared with camp staff or instructors.

Where are the locations of the camps?

- Rec-PAC sites are located schools throughout Fairfax County. The sites for summer 2017 TBA: - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac/> - Rec-PAC targeted inclusion sites are listed on the Rec-PAC website in April. Directions to locations - can <http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/> -
- RECenter locations are Oak Marr, Cub Run, Audrey Moore/Wakefield, George Washington, - Spring Hill, Providence, Mt. Vernon, Lee District and South Run. -
- Specialty & Park camps vary depending on camp selection. -
- See the Parktakes magazine or visit our web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/> -

How do I make arrangements for enrollment and accommodations?

- If ADA accommodations are required you must request the accommodations **at least 10 business days in advance of the start date.** If less than 10 days, we will make every effort to comply with your request, however, we cannot guarantee the accommodations.

- Request formal accommodations after registering for the camp by email: molly.gift@fairfaxcounty.gov or gary.logue@fairfaxcounty.gov, contacting the ADA Coordinator at (703) 324- 8727 (711 VA Relay system), or via the on-line registration process by checking the ADA accommodation box.
- Upon receipt, complete and return the Customer Profile Form (the form is not needed for interpreting requests unless there are secondary needs).
- Your child's application request and intake information are reviewed.
- The parent will be contacted prior to the start of the camp by the leisure coach to review the needs of your child.

What about FCPA classes and other programs/services?

- Applying the same concepts as stated above, ADA accommodations are provided upon request. Leisure Coaching is also available in class environments.

FCPA Code of Conduct

All customers enrolled in Fairfax County Park Authority programs agree to meet and sign the rules of *conduct* document. ADA accommodations provide customers with disabilities additional supports to help meet the rules of conduct. The ADA Coordinator reserves the right, on behalf of the agency, to terminate participation in the program if the customer cannot follow the rules of conduct. ***Every effort*** will be made to provide appropriate accommodations before terminating participation.

- Must be able to maintain personal care without support of FCPA staff or FCPA volunteers (parents can provide personal care assistance if needed)
- Stay with his/her assigned group
- Respect others (listening & following directions; using appropriate language; keeping hands and feet to self)
- Maintain self-control (manage emotions)
- Meet the prerequisites for the program (age and other if required for participation)
- With or without accommodations, customers must engage in scheduled activities for the majority of the program time.** Note: Participation is encouraged and aided, but not forced.

Additional questions/concerns about inclusion or other FCPA programs?

- Contact Gary Logue, ADA Coordinator, at (703) 324- 8727, TTY 711 Virginia Relay, or email gary.logue@fairfaxcounty.gov
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada-inclusion/>

Need more structured summer camp environments or opportunities (traditional camps/programs for kids/teens/adults with disabilities)?

- Contact Therapeutic Recreation Services at (703) 324-5532, TTY 711 Virginia Relay
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/trs/>