
Fairfax County Park Authority

2012 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.
- **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 needs of the customers, may be responsible for transitioning multiple customers 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 are welcome to provide their own volunteer/staff for support with these needs, including personal care.
- 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.

What is the staff to customer ratio?

- Rec-PAC Targeted Inclusion Summer Camp Sites: 2-3 inclusion staff provide support within the various age groups. General staff ratios remain 1:18 at these sites. **Inclusion staff are assigned to these specific locations for the duration of the camp. Inclusion staff/Leisure Coaches are not available at other Rec-PAC locations; however, ADA accommodations are provided 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 and **availability (a limited resource)**.
- ***If a Leisure Coach is utilized to facilitate transition/participation, support can be provided for a maximum of 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, 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. The withdrawal of support is based on feedback received from general staff, leisure coach, parent, and Inclusion Specialist. An appeals process is available in the event the parent disagrees with the staff assessment for withdrawing support and a consensus cannot be reached.

How are children grouped during activities?

- Rec-PAC Camps: children are typically grouped by grade level: 1st – 2nd graders, 3rd – 4th graders, etc.
- 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***: noisy and active with a variety of large 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 provide quiet areas for individuals 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).

What can I expect from the Extended Care programs?

- Extended Care Programs (Rec-PAC does not have this program) are generally unstructured and primarily revolve around self directed activities. ADA accommodations can be provided, however, ***the services of a leisure coach are not available in this 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 from the Health Department and the family’s physician.
- 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.
- Staff 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 without air conditioning. Lift vehicles are available upon request.

How are ADA Accommodations to be determined?

- Based on information gathered from the phone interview, the Customer Profile Form, and the Professional Information Sharing Form (if completed by camp enrollment by the customer's teacher), staff will develop a written Accommodation Plan that details specific needs and strategies for the customer.

Where are the locations of the camps?

- Rec-PAC sites are located schools throughout Fairfax County (TBA)
- Rec-PAC targeted inclusion sites typically include the five (5) elementary schools: Target Inclusion sites TBA
- RECenter locations are Oak Marr, Cub Run, Audrey Moore/Wakefield, Spring Hill, Providence, Mt. Vernon, Lee District and South Run.
- Specialty & Park camps vary depending on camp selection.
- See the Parktaks 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 submit the application and request the accommodations **at least 10 business days in advance of the start date.**
- Request formal accommodations after registering for the camp by contacting the ADA Coordinator directly at (703) 324- 8563, TTY at (703) 803-3354 or use the 711 Relay system.
- Upon receipt, complete and return the Customer Profile Form.
- Your child's application request and intake information are reviewed.
- You will be contacted prior to the start of the camp to review the Accommodation Plan.

What about FCPA classes?

- Applying the same principals as stated above, ADA accommodations are provided upon request. Leisure Coaching is also available in class environments.
- Contact the ADA Coordinator for additional information or to request reasonable accommodations: gary.logue@fairfaxcounty.gov

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 support 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 (anger management)
- Meet the prerequisites for the program (age and other if required for participation)

Additional questions/concerns about inclusion?

- Contact Gary Logue, ADA Coordinator, at (703) 324- 8563, TTY at (703) 803-3354, or email gary.logue@fairfaxcounty.gov

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

Contact Therapeutic Recreation Services at (703) 324-5532, TTY at (703) 222-9693