

FAQ's from Parents

What will my son/daughter get out of participation?

Some parents are hesitant to enroll their son/daughter in SRA programs but once they get over the initial hesitation they don't remember what took them so long to get involved.

Participants in SRAs benefit in many of the following ways:

Develop new friendships.

Learn new skills

Improve their fitness.

Develop motor skills,

Increase their communication.

Feel a "part" and less isolated.

Improve their self-control.

Tell me more about the staff at SRA programs. Do they get a background check? Does the SRA train them? Have they worked with someone like my son/daughter before?

Most of the Special Recreation Association's (SRAs) hire full time staff with Bachelor Degrees in Therapeutic Recreation or related studies. These staff are Recreation or Program Specialists who plan and sometimes implement programs. Additional seasonal part-time staff are hired and trained to work along side the Recreation Specialists or Supervisors of each program. Part time staff typically are individuals who are going to college or high school and are studying or have experience with people with special needs.

Each of the SRAs provide orientation and training to their staff on an ongoing basis. The goal of the SRAs is to provide quality programs that meet the individual needs of the participants.

By law, Special Recreation Associations (SRAs) routinely conduct criminal background checks on all staff and volunteers. SRAs strive to provide safe, comfortable and fun programs and events. Many of the SRAs have staff who are Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS). These professionals pass a written exam and must maintain ongoing meaningful education and training that pertains directly to the provision of quality recreation programming. SRA staff may be trained in First Aid, CPR, Basic Sign Language, Crisis Prevention Management, etc.

If I don't live in a community with an SRA, can I pay extra and come to your program anyway?

Most, but not all of the Special Recreation Associations (SRAs) welcome non-residents to their programs. SRAs who allow non-residents may charge an out of district fee or an annual fee. Contact the agency you are interested in and inquire.

My son/daughter is nonverbal. How will I know what he/she accomplished at the SRA program each week?

SRA staff always welcome discussions with families by phone or in person. Some SRAs use a progress report form that can provide you with information about your son/daughter. Should you need more details, don't hesitate to ask.

Is there a way my other son/daughter can also attend SRA programs?

Some Special Recreation Associations (SRAs) allow siblings to participate in some programs. Your best bet is to call and inquire.

Can I meet other parents at SRA programs that also have a son/daughter with a disability similar to my son/daughter?

Some parents find a whole new group of friends among the parents they meet at SRA special events or while dropping or picking up their son/daughter at a program.

My son/daughter is on the high end of the autism spectrum. Are there SRA programs for his ability group?

Each Special Recreation Association (SRAs) offers programs for the special needs groups they can identify. If you don't see something your son/daughter is interested in call and let the SRA know. SRAs offer programs offer a wide variety of programs for varying ability levels and try to provide programs for homogenous groups of individuals.

I am a parent of an adult with a developmental disability. My son/daughter is not independent in toileting or feeding himself/herself. Can he/she still enroll in a SRA program?

Special Recreation Association (SRA) staff are trained to assist individuals so that they can be active and successful in SRA programs. Many of the SRAs will conduct an assessment of your son/daughter which will give you an opportunity to discuss the very specific assistance your son/daughter will need to participate in SRA programs. SRA staff are ready and willing to help!

My son/daughter enjoyed participating in Special Olympics when he/she was in school. Now as an adult he/she misses it. Can an SRA help my adult son/daughter be on a Special Olympic team again?

The majority of Special Recreation Associations (SRAs) offer many special Olympic sports and training opportunities and will welcome you to the team, so give them a call.