

SPECIAL RECREATION





WHAT IS A SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION?

A cooperative of park districts and villages that provide recreation programs including:

- Sports & Fitness
- Special Olympics
- Social Clubs
- Cultural Arts
- Day Camp
- Special Events
- Weekend & Vacation Trips

Programs are offered for children, teens and adults with disabilities or special needs.

BACKGROUND

- Senator Harris Fawell introduced the legislation that enabled SRAs to be formed in 1969.
- Special legislation in Illinois enables park districts and villages to levy a special tax.
- Cooperatives can then be formed to provide services for individuals with disabilities or special needs.
- There are now more than 30 cooperative agencies throughout Illinois, serving more than 200 communities.



SSSRA HISTORY

- Formed in 1973 through the cooperation of Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Olympia Fields Park District and Park Forest Recreation & Parks Department.
- SSSRA has grown to include 9 member districts.
- Our office is in Tinley Park, and we have programs throughout our member districts. We also offer virtual programs and special events.



SSSRA PROGRAMS



SSSRA currently offers over 40 programs and over 30 special events per season. This includes in-person and virtual options.



Programs are offered for all ages, including early childhood, youth, teens and adults.



A special series of programs are offered for individuals with severe and profound disabilities.



SSSRA PROGRAMS



A special selection of programs and special events, such as adapted sports, are offered for adults with physical disabilities.



Door-to-door transportation is available for programs and special events for adults with physical disabilities. This option is also available for our day camp participants.



Pick-up points for transportation are available for special events that are hosted in locations outside of our member districts.



EARLY CHILDHOOD & YOUTH

Early childhood and youth programs are designed for children ages 2-12.

- Swim Lessons
- Day Camp
- T-Ball
- Little Kickers Soccer
- Field Trips



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Golf
- Powerlifting
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Volleyball





INCLUSION

- SSSRA provides inclusion services for all member districts.
- Participants who choose to participate in traditional programs offered by their park districts and recreation department receive support from SSSRA.
- Support includes observations, meeting with parents, providing behavior management, providing disability training or providing a 1:1 aide when needed.



MIND-BODY-BALANCE

—★ FOR VETERANS ★—

- A program designed for Veterans with an honorable discharge and a disability rating of 10% or higher.
- Provides 1 year membership to the Veteran, a personal training session option and monthly social activities.
- Injury does not have to be service related.

Program is offered at 4 fitness facilities including:

- Homewood-Flossmoor Racquet & Fitness Club
- Matteson Community Center
- Oak Forest Park District
- Tinley Fitness

OUTREACH



Special recreation associations regularly attend outreach events, including resource fairs, job fairs, and events hosted by local schools and libraries.



Special recreation associations also partner with local service organizations to raise awareness and reach more families.



FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Special recreation associations host fundraising events throughout the year.



SSSRA events include the Ricky's Ride Motorcycle Run and the Putting with Purpose Mini Golf Outing. Proceeds from these events go towards SSSRA's Scholarship Program.



Special recreation associations may receive funding through grants.



Individuals and service organizations generously donate time and financial support.





STAFF

- Full-time program staff have backgrounds in Therapeutic Recreation or a related field such as Special Education, Adaptive Physical Education or Parks & Recreation.
- Team sizes vary depending on programs offered and number of communities served.
- Part-time staff includes drivers, Inclusion Aides, recreation leaders, day camp staff and interns.

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