



ACCREDITATION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is Accreditation?



National Inclusion Project (NIP) and the Center for Social Development and Education at Umass Boston (CSDE) have established benchmarks, referred to as “Standards”, by which to define a successful inclusive recreation program and serve as the foundation for a national accreditation process implemented by NIP.



Who is NIP Accreditation For?

In 2020, we will focus on summer camps. It will be available to others, in the future.

Purpose and Value of NIP Accreditation



- Honors the efforts that inclusive recreation programs make on a daily basis to create an environment that welcomes all participants, regardless of ability level.
- Educates the program leadership of the key aspects of inclusion, helping them to establish guidelines and practices.
- Guides programs that already include participants with disabilities in enhancing their understanding of social inclusion
- Identifies practices that will improve and expand their inclusive programming at all organizational levels.
- Serves to recognize and confirm that a program is intentionally and successfully serving individuals with and without disabilities.
- Becomes one of the programs marketing tools, giving families a powerful way to select the best quality programs for their children.



What areas does the NIP Accreditation process address?

Administration, Facilities & Resources, Staffing, Programming, Evaluation

About the National Inclusion Project



Established in 2003, NIP partners with community organizations and recreational programs across the country, providing them with the training, tools, and support they need to ensure children w/disabilities are included in ALL of their activities.

Ready
to get
started?

919-314-5540

accreditation@inclusionproject.org

inclusionproject.org/accreditation

Contact
Us!



NATIONAL
INCLUSION
PROJECT

ACCREDITATION

TIMELINE

Assess Your Program



FALL

Program reviews the standards and criteria and steps to accreditation, fills out an interest form online and NIP contacts them to complete an initial program assessment. The goal is to assess program readiness to pursue accreditation.

Complete Workshop



WINTER

Complete Accreditation Process Workshop, which explains the requirements for accreditation and how the process works.

Submit Documentation



SPRING

Prepare and submit written documentation for each standard, as outlined in the documentation guidelines.

Host and Participate in Site Visit

SUMMER



Prepare for the site visit by designating which staff are going to host visitors. Create a schedule/agenda for the site visit. Ensure that staff understand the purpose of the visit and convey to them that they should operate as they do every day. At the time of the site visit, an individual who has completed the Accreditation Process Workshop and who has participated in compiling the written documentation must be present and must allot time to sit down with the visitors to complete the host interview process.

Review and Decision

FALL



Once the site visit is complete, an accreditation review committee will consider all documentation and observation data. If the committee has any questions or concerns, they will contact the host and/or the visitor for clarification. Once the review is complete, NIP will notify the host site of the accreditation decision.

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