



Info Session: An Introduction to Accreditation of Inclusive Recreation Programs

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Introduction & Overview

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NIP

www.inclusionproject.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Inclusion Project website. At the top, the URL 'inclusionproject.org' is visible in the browser address bar. The page features a navigation menu with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'ADVOCATES & FAMILIES', 'PROGRAMS & PROFESSIONALS', and 'NEWS & EVENTS'. A search icon and a 'DONATE!' button are also present. The main header includes the organization's logo, a large banner image of three smiling children, and the text 'National Inclusion Project' with the tagline 'Because no child should have to sit on the sidelines'. Below the banner are buttons for 'OUR STORY' and 'DONATE'. A smaller inset photo shows a woman (Dr. Amanda Kloo) with two children. At the bottom, there is a bio for Dr. Amanda Kloo, Director of Standards and Accreditation, with her email address 'amandakloo@inclusionproject.org'.

inclusionproject.org

Inclusion and COVID-19 LATEST INFORMATION

HOME ABOUT US ADVOCATES & FAMILIES PROGRAMS & PROFESSIONALS NEWS & EVENTS

NATIONAL INCLUSION PROJECT

National Inclusion Project
Because no child should have to sit on the sidelines

OUR STORY DONATE!

Dr. Amanda Kloo
DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

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WHY Accreditation of Inclusive Recreation Programs?

- Accreditation is an educational & informative process for programs to assess all aspects of inclusive practice at all levels
- Accreditation recognizes & celebrates the exceptional work inclusive programs do
- Accreditation is a universally recognizable benchmark tells families & communities that a program is fully & meaningfully inclusive because it meets that meets the highest of standards of best practice





WHO Should Pursue Accreditation?

- Recreation programs who serve children with and without disabilities
- Recreation programs implementing The Standards for Inclusive Recreation Programs with fidelity & success
- Recreation programs committed to improvement, collaboration, & growth to enrich their inclusive practices





WHAT is the Process for Accreditation?

1. Standards review/alignment/assessment
2. Accreditation workshop & guided consultation
3. Collection & submission of documentation
4. Site visitation & observation
5. Committee review & decision





WHAT is the Process for Accreditation? (Typical “Cycle” for Summer Programs)

1. Standards review/alignment/assessment
(FALL/WINTER)
2. Accreditation workshop & guided consultation
(WINTER/EARLY SPRING)
3. Collection & submission of documentation
(MARCH...MAY)
4. Site visitation & observation (JUNE...AUG)
5. Committee review & decision (OCT...NOV)





Step 1: Standards Review & Assessment

- Review the Standards & steps to Accreditation.
- Complete an initial program assessment of inclusionary practice aligned to The Standards. Review & discuss the results with NIP to plan next steps/readiness/timeline/etc.

(Link to Program Assessment Tool:

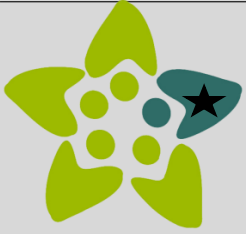
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NIPassessment>)



Standards Review & Assessment

Options for engagement/resources...

- Explore the Standards independently
<https://www.inclusionproject.org/standards/>
- Participate in the FREE brief Info Session: Introduction to the Standards
<https://www.inclusionproject.org/training/>
- Participate in live 1:1 or small group, virtual interactive workshop:
Standards for Inclusive Recreation Programs In Depth
<https://www.inclusionproject.org/training/>



Standards Review & Assessment

Results inform next steps such as:

- A focus on education/trainings on various standards areas & inclusion strategies with no current plans to pursue Accreditation in the future
 - Partnerships customized to program need
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 - Partnerships customized to program need
- A focus on education/trainings on various standards areas, inclusion strategies, implementation refinement, & practice accreditation experiences with plans to pursue Accreditation in the next “cycle”
 - Comprehensive Accreditation Package: 2 Year Process
- A focus on preparing for & pursuing Accreditation in the upcoming “cycle”.
 - Foundational Accreditation Package: 1 Year Process



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Step 2: Accreditation Workshop & Consultation

- 2-Part Interactive Accreditation for Inclusive Recreation Programs
In Depth Workshop
 - Open to any/all programs or practitioners
 - REQUIRED for programs pursuing Accreditation (included in cost of accreditation package)
 - Attend upcoming scheduled session with other programs engaged in Accreditation this year
 - Or schedule a session to meet your individual scheduling needs



Step 3: Documentation & Evidence

- Prepare a complete application for Accreditation including collecting and submit written documentation & implementation evidence for each standard, as outlined the Accreditation Manual



Step 4: Site Visitation & Observation

- Prepare for Site Visit (In-person (1 day visit); Virtual (~2 day visit))
- Designate host/facilitator & prepare staff
- Create a schedule/agenda for the site visit
- Test/plan for technology & various equipment/tools for virtual visits
- Ensure that staff understand the purpose of the visit and convey to them that they should operate as they do every day



Site Visitation & Observation

- Host Site Visit (In-person (1 day visit); Virtual (~2 day visit))
- Facilitate site visit with trained NIP Accreditation Visitors
- Be available for facilitation, guidance, interviews, questions, additional information, etc.
- Operate program as usual
- Be available for follow-up questions, etc.



Step 5: Committee Review & Decision

- NIP Accreditation Committee reviews all documentation and observation data
- Contact program facilitator or lead and/or site visitors with questions, clarifications, etc.
- NIP notifies program of Accreditation decision
 - Accreditation lasts 3 years
 - Programs submit brief annual progress/compliance reports
 - Accreditation “expires” after 3 years and programs wishing to re-accredit engage in the complete process again



Check Point...

Fill in the Blanks

Alignment with & implementation of The Standards for Inclusive Recreation Programs & engagement in the Accreditation process will improve program design, outcomes, and experiences for _____ children.



Assessment...

Fill in the Blank

Alignment with & implementation of The Standards for Inclusive Recreation Programs & engagement in the Accreditation process will improve program design, outcomes, and experiences for ALL children.



Assessment...

True or False

Accreditation is a mandatory process and therefore isn't valuable.



Assessment...

True or False

Accreditation is a mandatory process and therefore isn't valuable.


FALSE!

Accreditation is a **VOLUNTARY** process which makes is extremely valuable because it recognizes and confirms that a program is intentionally and successfully serving individuals with and without disabilities.



Resources & information about pursuing accreditation as a nationally recognized inclusive program

<https://www.inclusionproject.org/accreditation/>



ACCREDITATION FOR INCLUSIVE RECREATION

Many recreational & community programs bill themselves as inclusive of children with disabilities.

But inclusive can mean many different things depending on where a program is on their unique journey.

What if there was a universally recognizable benchmark that participants and their families can see and KNOW, without a doubt, that a program practices **full, meaningful inclusion** that meets the **highest of standards**?

Official accreditation by National Inclusion Project offers exactly that.

Powered by the **STANDARDS FOR INCLUSIVE RECREATION PROGRAMS**, NIP's accreditation process serves to recognize and confirm that a program is intentionally and successfully serving individuals with and without disabilities.



THANK YOU! 😊

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** Contact me with questions, suggestions, and feedback! To explore NIP's upcoming trainings, tools, & workshops. And for all things related to Standards implementation & Accreditation. **